

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

Tragedy, camaraderie unite retirees as year winds down

By VICKIE ELLIS, TVARA Valleywide President



VICKIE ELLIS

We hope you have been enjoying cooler weather and all the activities your area offers in autumn. While enjoying these activities, we must pause and reflect on the recent hurricane damage and the devastating effect this violent weather had on many regions of the Tennessee Valley and surrounding states.

While some areas were slowly reopening, others will take many months or years to rebuild. We thank our members who have helped by volunteering and providing donations to those who have been impacted.

Our TVARA annual luncheon hosted by TVA was held in Chattanooga in September and was a huge success once again. More than 800 retirees registered to attend, and we had

everything from numerous vendors and exhibitors to first-graders demonstrating robotics, who were quite entertaining!

Anna Clark, a senior at the Chattanooga School for the Liberal Arts, was one of the featured speakers. Her grandfather is a TVA retiree, and her grandparents were in the audience to hear her speak about her experience with robotics and how that influenced her choice of a college major.

TVA speakers included Jeannette Mills, Executive Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer; Mark Meigs, Executive Secretary of the TVA Retirement System; and Amy Edge, Manager, Integrated Resource Plan Engagement. We are very grateful to TVA for hosting this event again this

year. You should make plans to attend next year.

It is that time of year to renew TVARA membership dues for 2025. Additional information is on page 11 of this newsletter about payment options. Last year, we began using PayPal as a payment option in addition to checks and online bill pay. Many retirees utilized PayPal, and it was definitely a success. It saves you from mailing us a check and your bank from sending us a check for the online-bill-pay option. We encourage you to try PayPal this year. Dues remain \$15.

We have 18 chapters across the

Continued on page 11

TVARS reports assets boosted to \$8.7B

By COURTNEY HAMMONTREE, Lead Benefits Consultant, TVA Retirement Operations

As of September 2024, the TVA Retirement System reports an asset estimate of \$8.7 billion.

The pension fund performed well during the September quarter, which contributed to strong fiscal-year performance from an absolute and risk-adjusted return perspective.

Diversification and risk-reduction efforts by TVARS have benefited fund performance as interest rates have decreased and growth-oriented assets have increased. The pension fund continues to maintain a strong funded status, and TVARS is confident all current and future benefit payments are secure.

Within the 401(k) Plan, TVARS recently announced a reduced-expense ratio for an investment option available to participants. On Aug. 24, a share-class change was implemented for the Harding Loevner International Equity Fund, offering participants the same investment strategy and risk at lower fees. The overall gross-expense ratio for the fund decreased 0.13 percent from 0.74 percent to 0.61 percent.

TVARS also will be adding the PIMCO Income Fund as a diversifying fixed-income investment option in the 401(k) Plan lineup. The PIMCO Income Fund is an income-focused option

participants can utilize to help achieve their retirement-income goals. The fund offers an explicit income target and competitive fees.

The TVARS 401(k) Plan continues to evolve and increase in assets, ending the fiscal year with a net asset value of \$4.9 billion.

Two TVARS directors to serve new terms

In the recent employee election for a director vacancy on the TVARS Board, employees voted to re-elect Michael L. Belcher, Ops

Continued on page 16



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Helping horrendous Helene's many victims	2-3	Dues due again, come January	11
BVI touts its top volunteers	4	Valley's coolest Winter sites & sights	12-13
TVA lauds Retiree Luncheon bunch again	5	In Memoriam	14
Chapters highly involved in feeding folks	6	Chapter Meetings	15
D.C. team active at home, on road	7	Accessing 2024 TVA Annual Report	16
Big boom big boon for Douglas Reservoir	8-10		

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Lisa Overly
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Penny Walker
 Volunteer Coordinator

Richard T. Wilson Jr.
 Membership Program Manager

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

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BNY Mellon Payments

Phone: 844-545-1256, toll-free

Online: tvars.com/retirees,
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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.

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Call Express Scripts (drug)

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Or call People First Solution Center

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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 item was provided by Liberty Phillips, Employee Communications (Retiree), TVA Communications:

How TVA teams jumped in to help Helene-recovery efforts

The impacts of Hurricane Helene in the eastern part of the Tennessee Valley and adjacent areas were life-threatening and life-altering and will be lasting.

“Our hearts go out to everyone affected, and especially to communities with loss of life and flood damage to homes, buildings, bridges, roads, infrastructure, and individual property,” TVA Chief Operating Officer Don Moul says. “TVA is here to serve, limiting downstream damage from the most extreme weather events and working to help communities and people as they begin to rebuild.”

During the days following Helene’s devastation, TVA team members worked around the clock to monitor river and reservoir conditions; to store and move floodwaters through the TVA dam system; to support restoration of electric service on TVA, local-power-company, and neighboring systems; and to assist local, state, and federal agencies’ emergency-relief efforts.

Moving forward in supporting recovery and restoration efforts, TVA’s priorities were as follows:

- Supporting both the immediate needs of impacted communities and the long-term restoration efforts that would take place in the

coming weeks and months across western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. This includes providing direct assistance, response personnel, and equipment, relief supplies and resources.

- The safety of those working on emergency response and restoration in these conditions, the safety of the public, and the safety of the dams that protect numerous downstream communities as historical levels of water moved through TVA’s reservoir system.
- A thorough, proactive, and precautionary evaluation of TVA assets and facilities across the impacted area, to ensure their stability and identify any long-term impacts.

Following extensive flooding on unregulated waters upstream from TVA’s tributary dams, the TVA River Forecast Center team continued to control water movement through the TVA river system to minimize downstream flooding.

TVA’s most significant challenge was at Nolichucky Dam in Greene County, Tenn. In conjunction with emergency-management agencies, TVA issued a precautionary warning of potential dam failure to alert the public downstream. The Nolichucky Dam remained stable, the river level crested and fell, and emergency warnings were lifted. TVA began conducting a thorough assessment and evaluation



Muddy water flows through the floodgates of Douglas Dam as a result of Hurricane Helene, but a huge boom upriver prevented a huge jam of debris (see article on page 8).

on Nolichucky Dam to ensure its long-term operation.

TVA conducted inspections of all other impacted dams, and all were secure and stable.

TVA's River Forecast Center monitored all other tributaries in the impacted areas, where rivers were gradually returning to normal levels. The team also was working to manage downstream reservoirs, which were rising. TVA's focus was on preventing additional flooding and moving the water through the system to recover reservoir-

storage space in the event of additional rain in the coming days.

The TVA service area's bulk electric system and TVA's transmission system remained stable and secure.

TVA continued to assist local power companies with service restoration in their communities, and TVA lineworkers were helping neighboring Duke Energy in western North Carolina.

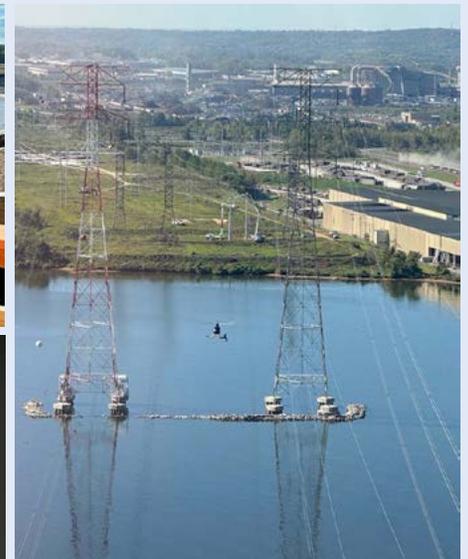
"This event caused significant damage in the eastern portion of TVA's service territory

and the recovery will be a large-scale and long-term effort," Moul says. "Recovery will require extensive coordination across many counties, communities, and agencies.

"TVA and its people will be there to support these historic efforts."

(See related article on page 8.)

To stay up to date on TVA news, register at this site: forms.office.com/g/5BZ2A4fkPm.



Above, from left, with U.S. Rep. Diana Harshbarger, TVA's Kevin Holbrook, Bert Robinson, Matt Bishop, Dan Pratt, Wesley James, and President/Chief Executive Officer Jeff Lyash meet in the pavilion at Nolichucky Dam to discuss operations to cope with the devastating effects of Hurricane Helene.



BVI recognizes more than 15,000 volunteer hours

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

Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. President Kathy Black highlighted the essential nature of partnerships when she welcomed more than 200 volunteers — headed by Sam and Bert Esslinger — and TVA staff members to the organization's annual awards reception in Chattanooga Sept. 12.

"Every year we get the honor of recognizing our valuable Visitor Center volunteers, and individuals working for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) through NEA (National Emergency Assistance), who assist in disaster relief," Black said. "This year, our volunteers donated over 15,256 hours of their time."

BVI's Executive Champion, Wilson Taylor, TVA Vice President of Support Services/Ombudsman, was the keynote speaker. He thanked all BVI members in attendance for their commitment to making the Tennessee Valley Region a better place through their volunteer efforts.

"BVI's mission is 'Connecting People with Purpose,'" Taylor told the volunteers. "The people with purpose are YOU. Thank you for giving unselfishly of your time, and I appreciate the many ways you still serve the people of the Valley region."

Black acknowledged volunteer milestones-awards winners. While all are amazing examples of service, she recognized Glen Tankersley, in particular. Tankersley started volunteering at the Kentucky Dam and Fontana Dam visitor centers in 1991. Tankersley, who passed away this past May, holds the record for the most volunteer hours of BVI service ever, with 14,232.



From left, Bert Esslinger, Kathy Black, and Sam Esslinger

The biggest honor of the evening, Volunteer of the Year, went to the husband-and-wife team of the Esslingers. The two have volunteered at Fontana Visitor Center together, and he also volunteers at Raccoon Mountain.

"We love volunteering at Fontana because it is an engineering feat, and it has some of the most beautiful views in the Valley region," he said. "It is also

important to be an ambassador with the public, because TVA did so much for the Valley region."

In addition to volunteering for TVA, the Esslingers also give their time to their local food bank, Meals on Wheels, and the Sequatchie County Library.

"We have lots of irons in the fire, and we stay busy," he said. "But it helps keep us young."

UNCLE SAM, BVI (plus your community, state) WANT YOU

By **KATHY BLACK**

The stated mission of Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., National Emergency Assistance, and Retiree Resources Corp. is to Connect People with Purpose.

That's why we in BVI, NEA, and RRC invite you, as a valued TVA retiree, to join us in supporting our mission in one of three rewarding ways:

Volunteer Your Time with BVI

BVI offers TVA retirees and former employees opportunities to volunteer at TVA visitor centers along with a variety of other volunteer opportunities in local communities. BVI is committed to making a positive impact in the Tennessee Valley Region through charitable contributions, educational support, and retiree involvement in local communities. Consider joining the team of more than 200 volunteers.

Support FEMA in Disaster-Recovery Efforts with NEA

NEA offers TVA retirees and other former federal employees employment opportunities to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency with disaster-recovery assistance all over the United States and its territories.

On behalf of TVA, these employees support Public Assistance, FEMA's largest grant program, in assisting communities impacted by major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. The program provides funding for emergency assistance to save lives and protect property, and it assists with funding for permanently restoring community infrastructure affected by a federally declared incident. NEA employees work with eligible applicants to facilitate the application process. At press time, about 80

NEA employees were currently supporting 20 disasters in 13 states. NEA hopes to hire additional employees in 2025.

Work with TVA Again via RRC

RRC employs TVA retirees and former employees to work with TVA in temporary staff-augmentation positions, providing skilled workers to meet intermittent staffing needs. With years of experience, TVA retirees can readily contribute to TVA's meeting its goals. If you are interested in putting your years of experience back to work, consider joining the RRC team.

Ready To Get Involved?

We'd love to learn more about how you'd like to contribute! Visit our website at mybvi.org, click on the "Get Involved" button, and fill out a simple form to let us know your interests. We will contact you as opportunities arise for you to get involved.

TVA praises retirees at annual appreciation luncheon

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

Coming from all over the region, nearly 800 retirees entered the Chattanooga Convention Center on Sept. 13 for TVA's annual Retiree Appreciation Luncheon.

Each year the luncheon combines past, present, and future, allowing TVA retirees to connect with former colleagues and get a more in-depth look into what is going on with TVA currently and in days to come.

TVA retiree Terry Kiraly of Knoxville perhaps summed up the feelings of many attendees as he walked through the doors, looked around, and said, simply, "Paradise!"

Greeted with a raffle ticket and a smile from a member of TVA's Employee Communications team, each retiree then began to venture through the many exhibits. As always, the displays were staffed by TVA groups ranging from TVA EnergyRight and TVA Police to River Management and Dam Safety.

A fan-favorite exhibit was Generation Construction's robotic dog.

Richard Mooney, a retiree from Chattanooga, participated in a demonstration designed to show off the robotic dog's "intelligence" and doglike flexibility.

"I thought it was going to walk straight into me," Mooney said. "But it never did. Amazing!"



Retiree Richard Mooney and a dog of a decidedly different collar

The luncheon seemed to be enjoyed both by those who attended and those working at the event.

"I love working at these luncheons," said Employee Communications Intern Julie Linehan. "Hearing everyone's stories and the love they share for TVA as a company are inspiring to me as an intern. I like getting to learn from those who've served in the past."

Retirees also learned more about Tennessee Valley Robotics—an organization supported by TVA and by one of TVA's retiree organizations, Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. Staffed by students, the robotics exhibit provided retirees with an up-close look at the future workforce in the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

After retirees visited the exhibits and ate lunch, TVARA Valleywide President Vickie Ellis officially welcomed them.

Mark Meigs, TVA Director of Retirement Services, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for each retiree in attendance. As the son of a retiree, he emphasized that he feels an obligation to help take care of those who served us in the past.

Gratitude and appreciation also were expressed by Executive Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer Jeannette Mills.

"After talking with many of you, I was struck by the fact that you might retire from TVA, but you didn't retire from the mission of service," she said. "I think that is because service is a trait you had inside you when you joined TVA. It's one of the things that set you apart, and it's the reason TVA will always be more than electricity."

"You represent enduring energy — the kind that changes lives and communities, the kind of energy that was the hallmark of your careers."



From left, retirees Joan Marsh, Carol Sherer, and Billy Baggett



From left, Lucille Allensworth, with her sister and fellow TVA retiree, Esther Myhan

Generational Legacy

At the annual TVA Retiree Appreciation Luncheon, a poignant moment unfolded when retiree James Huber Sr. and son James Huber II, also a TVA retiree, displayed a large, framed photo of the construction of Norris Dam. The photo, given to Huber Sr. by a TVA mentor, Carlos Paige, symbolizes a family legacy that spans four generations.

When Huber Sr. was growing up, his dad worked for TVA, clearing the Guntersville Reservation, so when

Huber Sr. started as an Engineering Aide in Knoxville, he continued the tradition. Huber II retired from Bellefonte after devoting more than three decades to TVA.

"You never had to worry about anything, working for TVA," Huber Sr. said. "It was a good job, good money, and I got to travel a little bit. They always took really good care of us."

This legacy also includes a Huber Sr. grandson, Justin Huber, who currently works on contract for TVA out of Chattanooga.



From left, James Huber II and James Huber Sr., with photo of Norris Dam, part of a proud TVA tradition

What's Cooking? Café 34, Thanks to J/C, BVI

TVARA's **Johnsonville/Cumberland Chapter** was busy over the past quarter helping organizations within its locale.

The chapter presented a check for \$3,500 to American Legion Auxiliary No. 34 in Waverly, Tenn., to help with much-needed remodeling of a kitchen. The auxiliary runs Café 34, where every Monday volunteers cook and sell lunches to raise money to assist local veterans. The kitchen was in desperate need of new cabinets, a ventilation fan, countertops, and a sink. The grant, provided by Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., went a long way in upgrading the kitchen and will ensure its fundraising efforts will be able to continue.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee opened in 1978 and is currently providing more than 648,000 meals a year to individuals within Benton County. Working in conjunction with six other partner agencies, the Johnsonville/Cumberland Chapter makes sure Second Harvest's warehouse stays full. In addition to being a food pantry, Second Harvest helped establish the Benton County School Food Pantry, which — through the Benton County Back Pack Program — provides food to students and their



A \$5,000 check is presented to Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee Donor Relations Manager Donna Vick by Johnsonville/Cumberland Chapter's John Phillips (left) and Mickey Blackburn.

families who face food insecurity. Through the Benton County Library, this program ensures children have food over the weekends when not in school and during the summer.

The United Way of Benton County, Tenn., received a check for \$5,500 from the Johnsonville/Cumberland Chapter and BVI to assist its FUEL Program. FUEL stands for "Frame the conversation. Understand the current state. Explore the desired state. Lay out a success plan."

This program is aimed at making sure students in Benton County have nutritious, fresh food to eat. Food bags are made and sent home with the students on Fridays, so they will have enough to eat over the weekend.

The TVARA **Muscle Shoals Chapter** received a \$5,000 grant from BVI to assist in the sponsorship of the Florence Civitan Club's annual golf tournament. The event raises money to help support several local agencies, including United Cerebral Palsy, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Shoals Habitat for Humanity, to name a few. All the money raised stays

Continued on page 7

Making 'sweeter dreams' possible

By JOHN P. BLACKWELL

Members of the Muscle Shoals Chapter of the TVA Retirees Association worked with TVA Power Service Shops employees to help construct 62 beds for children who had none.

The beds were to be delivered to Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties in Alabama.

Most of the retirees involved had not been aware that these children were not sleeping in beds. Therefore, there was a lot of interest about this cooperative project.

The chapter requested and received a grant from BVI for \$5,000 to cover expenses of lumber and supplies for building the beds, as well as for mattresses and bed covering. The beds can be made into bunk beds, as well as single beds.

The chapter presented the check to the staff of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which expressed

appreciation for the donation and said how much the program looked forward each year to working with TVA and was impressed with the speed in which the beds were built.

On Sept. 5, the project was carried out on a parking lot at a warehouse on the TVA Reservation in Muscle Shoals. Our TVARA team included Jim Green, Leon Smith, Greg Vandiver, Anita Vandiver, Tim Cornelius, Cameron Kay, Henry Long, and my wife, Elba Lue Blackwell, and me.

About 20 workstations were set up, beginning with wood-cutting and progressing through the process not only of making the beds, but painting and branding "SHP" on each one.

The staff of the Power Service Shops had gloves, safety glasses, face masks, and hearing protection available, and the retirees quickly blended into the workforce and got to work.



TVA retiree Leon Smith, at right, helps build a bed.

Sawdust soon covered most of us. The weather was a perfect sunny fall day. In less than two hours, 62 beds were built.

Power Service Shops provided pizza lunch as a way of saying thanks to everyone for help with this worthwhile project.

We all left covered in sawdust but filled with a sense of satisfaction after participating in such a worthwhile project.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

Federal Affairs staff stays busy being visited & as visitors



JESSICA HOGLE

By JESSICA HOGLE, TVA Vice President, Federal Affairs

Between our annual trip to the Tennessee Valley with congressional staffers and hosting visits in Washington, the TVA Federal Affairs team had another busy few months.

But, as always, we enjoyed spending time with our colleagues and external partners.

Annual congressional staff trip

In August, the TVA Federal Affairs team had the opportunity to take a group of 20 congressional staffers for a visit to TVA sites in the eastern part of the region. The group represented Tennessee Valley Delegation offices as well as committees of jurisdiction.

Over three days, TVA employees welcomed the congressional staffers to Wilson Dam, Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, and the new Systems Operations Center in Georgetown, Tenn. At those locations, they heard about the important role these assets play in maintaining reliable and affordable power and how TVA is planning for future growth.

Showcasing the powerful partnerships TVA has in the region was another important part of the trip.

We also arranged for visits to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to hear about how these institutions work with TVA on developing new and innovative technologies and growing the energy workforce. Our regional team also hosted a luncheon and panel discussion at Lakeside Tavern on Fort Loudoun Lake in Knoxville, featuring four local-power-company leaders, as part of the annual visit.

TVA executives visit federal stakeholders

In mid-September, TVA President/Chief Executive Officer Jeff

Lyash and General Counsel David Fountain were in town for a series of meetings that included a Tennessee-delegation breakfast and individual meetings with federal stakeholders. They met with Reps. David Kustoff (R-TN), Chuck Edwards (R-NC), the DOE Grid Deployment Office, Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA, Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee), and with staff for EPW Ranking Member Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). The Tennessee-delegation breakfast was hosted by Rep. John Rose (R-TN) and attended by Reps. Tim Burchett (R-TN) and Scott DeJarlais (R-TN), as well as senior staff members from both Senate offices and chiefs of staff for Rep. Mark Green (R-TN) and Steve Cohen (D-TN). These engagements are an opportunity for senior leadership to share important TVA updates, including the draft Integrated Resource Plan, progress on new asset builds, new nuclear efforts, and other priorities.

Later in the day, the Atlantic Council also hosted a dinner that featured a discussion among CEO Lyash and several members of Congress outside of our delegation on the future of energy policy. The session also was attended by Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN).

Sharing TVA's innovation story

The Federal Affairs team hosted its quarterly lunch-and-learn event that featured an update from Dr. Joe Hoagland, Vice President of Innovation & Research, on TVA's efforts to develop new technologies. He shared an overview of how a future power system might look and discussed each of the seven key pillars of innovation and research TVA is pursuing. This was one of the most highly attended sessions and had good representation from officials representing groups across the Tennessee Valley.

3 Cheers for Our Volunteers!...continued from page 6

local. Several chapter members are part of the planning committee and help with preparation of the actual event. This year's tournament raised more than \$12,000.

The organizers provide the chapter with a spot for a four-person team in the tournament, and each year the chapter selects a local high-school team to fill that spot. This year Deshler High was selected.

This was the third year TVARA/BVI has been the

“presenting” sponsor of the event and was asked to speak with the golfers. This was a great opportunity to highlight TVARA/BVI's involvement in the community.

The TVARA **Paradise Chapter** received a \$5,000 grant from BVI to support Christ Among Us Food Pantry in Fordsville, Ky. The pantry provides food to nearly 100 families who could not otherwise afford groceries. Without the assistance from the chapter, the pantry would not be able to provide this service to the community.

Undaunted by Douglas debris, TVA crews lower the boom

By **SUSAN EHRENLOU**, TVA Strategic Communications

The orange boom, plump and as big around as a basketball, was eased off the boat ramp into Douglas Reservoir.

Tennessee Valley Authority boats — crewed by TVA Police, Dam Safety, and River Services personnel — tugged the boom out from tethers at its end and middle. Boat lights flashed, and radios squawked to communicate with CleanHarbors, a company that delivered the coiled boom by 18-wheeler.

By the end of the day, the boom would stretch three-quarters of a mile across Douglas Reservoir.

It would help contain a massive, heartbreaking collection of floating debris, pieces of people's lives destroyed and washed downriver in floodwaters stemming from Hurricane Helene.

But the debris wasn't only tragic — it also posed a danger. With time — or another storm system — it could plow downriver and potentially impact operations at Douglas Dam.

In all, the boom would be a first step toward recovery, beginning the long effort to return the reservoir — and people's lives — to normal.

"We're all working hand in hand," Billy Parrish, TVA Master Marine Pilot Head Foreman and leader of the boom installation, said. The different TVA groups assembled nodded.

"I think it's important to show the community that we're not just letting (the debris) go, that we're mindful," said Eric Edwards, TVA Civil Engineer and Dam Safety Inspector.



How could this thick field of debris on Douglas Reservoir be contained? TVA's solution was the placement of a large boom.

Debris Endangers Dams

Rain and runoff from Hurricane Helene caused severe flooding in late September that washed away homes, farms, and whole sections of towns.

And those pieces of people's lives raged downriver.

They flowed into Douglas Reservoir from the Pigeon and French Broad rivers in North Carolina and the Nolichucky River in northeast Tennessee.

TVA teams began work as fast as they could to protect dams from the debris.

Just after the storm, TVA Dam Safety inspectors flew with TVA's aviation team to assess the damage.

They stayed up late into the night planning how to deploy



A truck and trailer deliver the wrapped boom.



Crews unravel the boom on a boat ramp



TVA Dam Safety Inspector and Civil Engineer Eric Edwards checks a cluster of debris at Douglas Reservoir.

the Douglas Reservoir boom.

And at 6 a.m. the next day, they gathered at the Dandridge (Tenn.) Municipal Park Access Boat Ramp to get to work.

“The event that we had last weekend is unprecedented,” Edwards said.

He explained how the massive amounts of debris could cause trouble.

“Without being able to release that water at the rate you needed to, you could start raising the reservoir,” Edwards said. “There are all sorts of problems that could be associated with that.”

Even if the gates opened, a huge tree or root ball passing through might get stuck in the opening.

“Then you can’t close (the gate), when it comes time to reduce or stop spill operations,” Edwards said. “So those were the two things from a dam-safety standpoint that we were trying to avoid.”

Another priority was capturing and being able to safely



Boat crews haul the boom onto the reservoir.

dispose of environmentally hazardous materials, including propane tanks, refrigerants, fuels, and oils.

Finally, the debris-trapping boom would also help the town of Dandridge, which, like some other communities, partly sits below the level of the lake. Its safety depends on working dams and free-flowing outlets from the reservoir.

Fields of Debris

Before the boom arrived, a TVA boat carrying Paul Ivey and Shane Carman, of Coal Combustion Products and Equipment Support Services, respectively, and Eric Edwards motored upriver to scout anchor points on each shore.

They wanted to compare the locations of the debris fields they had helicoptered over the previous day with their positions today.

“There’s not a lot of flow,” Edwards said, peering into the fog as the boat motored upriver from Dandridge.

After a stretch of clear water, logs began to bob here and there in the murky brown water.

Continued on next page



A field of debris accumulates near the shore at Douglas Reservoir.



Shoreline crews unravel a floating boom as a boat pulls it onto the reservoir.



TVA personnel conducted helicopter assessments of the damages at Douglas and elsewhere.

If anything, the wind blowing upriver seemed to have moved the debris away from the dam.

“It’s more spread out today,” Ivey said.

Carman piloted the boat skillfully around skinned trees and floating debris. And then the surface of the river changed, looking so solid that one might be tempted to try to walk across.

Debris as small as sticks and as large as whole house propane tanks and ripped-off docks stretched all the way to the shore, cramming itself under people’s docks.

Crows congregated on a clump of logs, roots, a chair, propane tank, and hose. A heron swooped overhead.

In the distance, after a short break of open water, another debris field stretched from shore to shore.

“It’s coming in from the sloughs,” Edwards said, shaking his head. “The thickness and density of this debris field — it’s gaining material.”

“There are three distinct debris fields now,” Carman said.



Beauty amid the chaos — an egret takes flight from the debris of Hurricane Helene.



Restrained by the boom, Douglas debris awaits removal by tools ranging from bulldozers to barges.

He eased the boat forward, and waterlogged trees bumped the pontoons as the crew solemnly assessed the scene.

Part of their job — and the path forward — was estimating how much of the debris it would take to clog the dam. Also critical was determining how much of it posed environmental hazards, and how much had been — or could be — broken up to pass harmlessly through the dam to downriver.

They agreed that although there were still unknowns, the best first step was the boom.

“We’ve deployed booms before, but for different reasons,” Edwards said.

Then, from back at the dock, a message — the boom had arrived.

Boom Time

For such a huge object, the boom sat tidily on pallets and deployed into the water easily, if slowly.

The plastic boom had designated anchor points, Ivey pointed out, and crews would tie and sink metal anchors to each after the boom stretched taut across the water.

In the time it took to drive the first section of boom to another boat ramp on the far shore, the debris had shifted yet again. Now a thick mat smothered the shore and dock.

And already snugged against the boom’s puffy orange curve were these clouds of debris. A whole tree, a half-smashed cooler, a soccer ball, and what appeared to be a doghouse followed the boom as it pulled through the water.

“It’s in the best interest of TVA and the community to stop (the debris) where it is,” Edwards said. “The boom buys time.”

(See related article on page 2.)

Dues Renewal Notices for 2025 Coming in January

You will receive a Dues Renewal Notice for 2025 in the mail during the first week of January 2025 if you have not paid for 2025. You will not receive a Dues Renewal Notice if you have already paid for 2025 or beyond.

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

The Expiration Date for your TVARA membership (and accompanying subscription to this newsletter) is above your name on the mailing label on page 16.

The Dues Renewal Notice envelope has a postcard containing your Membership ID, name, address, and a return envelope. It includes a reminder to pay your dues for 2025 by submitting a check for \$15 made payable to TVARA. There is also space to provide your email address and phone number (home and cell).

You can request a membership card by enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Insert the completed postcard inside the enclosed return envelope, your check (do not send cash), and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a new membership card. If your spouse wishes to become a member, please include his or her name and

payment with your dues.

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

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

Civil Service Retirees also can become members of TVARA. You can write a \$15 check payable to TVARA and mail it to the address just mentioned. If you are a Civil Service Retiree and have recently changed your address, please inform Retirement Services (call toll-free at 800-824-3870) of the change. If you are unsure whether Retirement Services has your correct address, get in touch with someone there immediately.

Pay Your Membership Dues Using PayPal or Online Bill Pay

Did you know you can pay your TVARA membership dues with PayPal or Online Bill Pay through your local bank or credit union? Go to mytvara.org and click "Membership," then click "Chose Payment Method" and scroll down to PayPal or Online Bill Pay and follow instructions.

PayPal Easy Way To Pay without Delays

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

You can now pay your TVA Retirees Association membership dues through PayPal. As a matter of fact, 182 retirees were already paying their dues using PayPal, as of Nov. 1.

PayPal has proven to be very convenient. It only takes a few minutes, and TVARA will receive your payment in its PayPal Account immediately. No checks, stamps, weather delays, trips to the post office, and nothing getting lost or delayed by the post office. You also will receive a Payment Confirmation email from me 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, and so on).

Just enter paypal.com/paypalme/TVARADues/16 in your browser on your PC or phone and follow the PayPal instructions.

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

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

Welcome to PayPal? Think about it.

Tragedy, camaraderie unite retirees...continued from page 1

Tennessee Valley. Most of our chapters need retirees to serve as an officer (Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Volunteer Coordinator). If you would be interested in serving in one of these capacities, please get in touch with your chapter president (see contact information on page 15). Thank you for considering helping your chapter.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to check out our newly updated TVARA website at mytvara.org. It has been totally redesigned and contains current information on chapter meetings and upcoming events, as well as articles of interest on happenings around the Valley. Have a great holiday season. Be safe and be well.

Wandering Winter's Wonderlands

By JULIE GRAHAM

The exuberance brought forth by holiday festivities doesn't have to lead into the Winter Blues.

To be sure, after the bright lights and excitement of Christmas and New Year's, winter can feel a little dull and gray. January and February often stretch on with shorter days, colder weather, and less time outside. But while this period can feel like a slump, there are ways to make these quieter winter months something to look forward to:

Escape on a winter getaway

There is something magical about gathering in a cozy cabin or inn during the winter. The warmth of a crackling fire, snow gently falling outside, and a sense of togetherness create the perfect setting for winter get-togethers. If you're looking to make the most of these quieter moments with friends or by yourself, a cabin getaway could be just the thing to recharge, reconnect, and enjoy some of the season's best comforts.

Here is how to make the most of your winter getaway. Choose a location that suits your interests:

Soak up History and Culture — From the musical roots of Bristol to the timeless inns of Greeneville, Tenn., each of these destinations offers a special way to connect with the past and present:

Patti's 1880 Settlement in Grand Rivers, Ky., is a gateway to Land Between the Lakes and a step back in time to a simpler life. The small resort village offers a choice of a hotel or bed-and-breakfast for guests, along with a well-loved dining menu and boutique shopping. Take a day to visit either the prairie grasslands of LBL to see native bison and wintering birds, or the UNESCO Art City of Crafts and Folk Art. Two must stops are the National Quilt Museum and the Wall-to-Wall Floodwall Murals.

The "Music of the Mountains" is always playing in the Bristols of Virginia and Tennessee. The legendary 1927 Bristol Sessions marked what is called the "Big Bang of Country Music" and the broad commercial appeal for records and phonographs. The Birthplace of Country Music Museum hosts events year-round. Rent a cabin in the mountains or in nearby Abingdon, Va., at the Blacks Fort Inn B&B. Explore historic downtown Abingdon with its theaters, museums, and coffee shops.

The City of Greeneville is a town steeped in history. From Davy Crocket's birthplace to railroad history to the modern Niswonger Performing Art Center, the historic downtown is a walking tour of America's journey through modern times. Civil War buffs will want to stay at the General Morgan Inn, a National Historic Hotel of America. The original site was called the DeWoody Tavern Inn (1790) and served pioneers traveling the "Great Wagon Trail" during the

late 18th century. During the Civil War, Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan was ambushed in Greeneville, trying to escape Union troops. From 1880 to the 1920s, the Golden Age of train travel, Greeneville was an important stop for passengers. Stroll the town, visit the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, or book seats at one of the live shows at the Niswonger Center. Shows run every weekend during the winter months.

State parks often have roots in history and geology. Located in Tishomingo, Miss., Tishomingo State Park has evidence of Paleo Indians dating back to 7000 BC. The park is named for the Chickasaw nation leader who served with the U.S. Military in the War of 1812 and later went on to defend Indian land during the debates leading up to the Indian Removal Act. The park was built by the CCC in the 1930s as part of the New Deal. Lodging includes cabins and campgrounds, with rustic cabins situated on the bluffs above Bear Creek. Hike the boulder-strewn trails with massive rock formations and deep crevices. Or explore a section of the Natchez Trace, a centuries-old route used by Native Americans, settlers, and soldiers. U.S. 72 near luka accesses the Trace near mile-marker post 308.9.

Connect with Nature — If a cozy cabin isn't for you, perhaps venturing into the natural world will offer the winter magic you're seeking

The Tennessee River Valley is a vital region for winter bird migration, attracting birdwatchers and nature-lovers alike. The river's vast system of reservoirs, wetlands, and forests provides critical stopover and wintering habitats for a wide range of migratory birds. A walk in the outdoors can be both refreshing and calming. Spend a few minutes observing the winter landscape, taking in the bare branches, still water, and quiet that is distinctive this time of year. Take note of winter-specific beauty, like frost-covered branches or snow-dusted landscapes and the sounds of bird calls.

You will want your binoculars on hikes to these prime birding locations:

Sandhill Cranes — Perhaps the most famous winter visitors to the Tennessee River Valley, tens of thousands of sandhill cranes arrive every year, especially around the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Birchwood, Tenn., and at Joe Wheeler Reservation in Decatur, Ala. The bird's distinctive calls and graceful presence draw birdwatchers from all over, especially during the annual festivals held every January.

Bald Eagles — Winter is prime time for spotting bald eagles along the river valley. As they migrate southward, many settle along the river's banks, where the open water provides good hunting grounds for fish. The Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge near Paris, Tenn., is a particularly popular area for eagle sightings.

Waterfowl — The Tennessee River Valley sees a variety of ducks and other waterfowl during the winter months. Migratory species such as northern pintails, green-winged teals, and gadwalls arrive in large numbers, finding food and shelter in the river's wetlands and surrounding lakes. Less common are shorebirds, white pelicans, and tundra swans. Plan a trip to Rankin Bottom in Newport, Tenn., or the Duck River in Columbia, Tenn.

Songbirds — Many wintering songbirds, such as the American robin, cedar waxwing, and various sparrows, move through the valley, feeding on remaining berries and seeds in the forests and fields. Some birdwatchers also spot golden-crowned kinglets and winter wrens, tiny birds that come south to spend the colder months in the milder Tennessee climate. Across the valley and even in your own backyard, songbirds are active in wooded areas, marshlands, and lakes. As the weather warms, listen for the sound of nesting screech owls and great horned owls

While it is natural to hibernate a bit, attending winter events can be fun, even in chilly weather. For those looking to celebrate winter with community and cheer, here's a list of events to bring the season to life:

December

1-23 — **North Pole Limited, Chattanooga:** Lighted train ride (day trips available) on the Tennessee Valley Railroad.

6-7 — **Christmas at Carter Mansion, Elizabethton, Tenn:** Tennessee's oldest frame-house offers tours during the holiday season.

7 — **Holiday Makers Faire, Jonesborough, Tenn.:** Some 55-plus vendors selling handcrafted goods and foods.

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

7 — **Visions of Christmas 1862, Johnson City, Tenn.:** Held annually at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.

7-8 — **Victorian Holiday Home Tour – Knoxville:** The 34th annual event celebrating the stately, historic homes of Old Knoxville.

12-14 — **Sippin Cider Festival, Athens, Ala.:** Shop, sip, and mingle with local merchants.

14 — **Tour De Lights, Knoxville:** Hike-and-bike tour of downtown.

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

January

10-13 — **Festival of the Cranes, Decatur, Ala.:** Annual event to mark the return of the sandhill cranes to Joe Wheeler Reservation.

11-12 — **Sandhill Crane Festival, Birchwood, Tenn.:** Annual event to mark the return of the sandhill cranes to the Hiwassee River.

24-25 — **Chocolate Festival, Knoxville:** A decadent day of chocolate, chocolate, and more chocolate.

30-Feb 1 — **Maggie Valley Ice Festival, Maggie Valley, N.C.:** Ice sculptures, ice slide, warming tent, festival food.

31 (and every Saturday) — **Country Cabin, Norton, Virginia:** Weekly show of bluegrass music.

February

10 — **Maple Syrup Fest, Johnson City, Tenn.:** Annual festival at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, celebrating the season of tree-tapping.

11 — **Natchez Trace Running Tour, Lexington, Tenn.:** Race to the Trace.

15 — **Ninth Annual Von Brewski Beer Festival, Huntsville, Ala.:** Sample the art of brewing craft beer.

22 — **Tennessee Beer Fest, Townsend, Tenn.:** State gathering for craft brewers.

23-26 — **Winter: Renew and Restore, at Blackberry Farm, Walland, Tenn.:** A weekend of wellness -and- healing exercises.

Learn more about the Tennessee River Valley and events happening throughout the year. Explore more about this great Tennessee River Valley online at [tennesseerivervalleygeotourism.org](https://www.tennesseerivervalleygeotourism.org).



In Memoriam

July 29, 2024 - Oct. 27, 2024

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period July 29, 2024, through October 27, 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.

Anderson, Anthony A.,
9/10/2024(9/18/2006)

Arden, Donnie R.,
9/1/2024(1/14/2002)

Ayers, Steve G.,
7/31/2024(10/1/1988)

Badgett, Morris K.,
8/18/2024(7/14/1987)

Barnett, Reggie L.,
7/26/2024(10/1/2004)

Barton, Hugh W.,
8/10/2024(6/6/2002)

Baty, Larry J.,
9/15/2024(11/16/2002)

Blackburn, Harold,
10/17/2024(10/1/1998)

Boehms, Joe F.,
10/1/2024(11/15/1992)

Bradford, Larry D.,
8/19/2024(9/16/2011)

Brewer, Larry D.,
10/8/2024(5/14/1988)

Byrd, Harvey Jackson,
7/31/2024(1/4/1992)

Caden, Russell G.,
6/28/2024(10/19/2002)

Calhoun, Donald P.,
8/10/2024(3/23/1993)

Call, Horace E., Jr.,
8/25/2024(1/12/1999)

Carpenter, Phillip A.,
7/29/2024(6/15/1991)

Cate, Patricia W.,
8/10/2024(9/27/1997)

Childers, Ben A., Sr.,
8/22/2024(9/11/1982)

Childers, Libby S.,
9/3/2024(5/19/1989)

Clem, Harold D.,
9/3/2024(6/26/1989)

Conard, Wallace A.,
8/13/2024(3/12/1978)

Cordell, James Andrew,
9/14/2024(7/7/2018)

Crabtree, Joe W., III,
8/19/2024(10/17/1994)

Cromwell, Carl E.,
9/7/2024(1/17/1998)

Curington, Bob L.,
9/15/2024(8/27/1988)

Davenport, Alicia Yvonne,
8/31/2024(12/2/2007)

Davidson, Stephen L.,
8/3/2024(10/26/1991)

Davis, Donald H.,
9/29/2024(6/9/2005)

Davis, Stanford E.,
8/1/2024(11/21/2011)

Denney, W. Harold,
10/17/2024(11/3/2007)

Dooley, Sean Frazier,
8/31/2024(3/2/2002)

Douglas, Eugene,
9/15/2024(6/16/1990)

Drum, Edgar H.,
9/23/2024(10/1/1988)

Duncan, G. Alvin,
8/28/2024(11/26/1994)

Edwards, Joyce L.,
8/2/2024(6/28/2003)

Ellis, Jerry W.,
8/31/2024(1/7/2003)

Ervin, Robert S.,
10/12/2023(4/14/1990)

Evans, Scott L.,
8/9/2024(4/25/2012)

Fairman, John E.,
8/6/2024(7/9/1988)

Floyd, Faye R.,
9/19/2024(9/21/2004)

Fox, Johnnie B.,
9/8/2024(8/2/2011)

Freeman, Herman J.,
9/12/2024(10/2/1990)

Frey, John W.,
7/8/2024(10/17/1994)

Fridell, Glenda R.,
10/13/2024(10/9/1999)

Gann, Fred H.,
9/25/2024(7/28/1994)

Garrison, Jack M.,
8/4/2024(8/1/1988)

Goddard, Shirley J.,
10/6/2024(9/27/1997)

Graham, Vicki L.,
8/28/2024(6/8/1991)

Graves, Charles B.,
10/10/2024(1/10/2005)

Hanselman, Robert C., Jr.,
9/28/2024(10/10/2009)

Harris, Andrew L., Jr.,
8/29/2024(6/14/2003)

Hashimoto, Isao,
10/3/2024(1/9/1982)

Henley, John T.,
8/26/2024(11/14/2015)

Herron, David M.,
10/8/2024(6/3/2003)

Hillyard, Micheal L.,
8/22/2024(10/17/1994)

Hodge, Charles A.,
8/27/2024(2/11/1999)

Holderfield, Betty J.,
9/29/2024(3/17/1990)

Hooper, Novie H.,
9/9/2024(2/18/1988)

Jenkins, Charles F.,
9/4/2024(11/17/2001)

Johnson, Ben L.,
7/27/2024(3/1/2003)

Johnson, Mona Lisa,
10/15/2024(6/22/1991)

Johnson, Ronnie K.,
8/30/2024(9/23/1988)

Keen, James R.,
9/18/2024(8/2/1988)

King, Edward W.,
7/29/2024(10/1/2014)

Knight, Tony Alan,
8/9/2024(9/23/2014)

Krupp, Don R., Sr.,
8/7/2024(5/29/2004)

Lawson, Jerry W.,
8/10/2024(9/25/1999)

Lentz, Wayne M.,
9/19/2024(4/4/1998)

Lin, Franklin C.I.,
8/29/2024(4/14/1990)

Lowe, Alice C.,
10/6/2023(12/3/1994)

Maillet, Lee E.,
8/1/2024(12/31/2011)

Massey, Gary M.,
9/5/2024(8/13/1990)

Mattox, Barbara M.,
10/2/2024(4/29/1995)

McAllister, Janice W.,
8/3/2024(1/1/2009)

McDonald, Eddie L.,
9/18/2024(9/1/2012)

McLaughen, James H.,
10/18/2024(3/3/2007)

Meadows, Marion O.,
8/19/2024(9/2/1999)

Moore, Jessie H.,
9/7/2024(4/10/1999)

Morrell, Bertie Jo,
8/29/2024(10/30/1954)

Murray, Jean S.,
7/15/2024(9/29/2007)

Murray, Leonard B., Jr.,
10/12/2024(10/17/1994)

Myers, Bartley R., Jr.,
9/19/2024(12/16/1991)

Nelson, Curtisdene J.,
10/2/2024(10/17/1994)

Nethery, Richard D.,
8/18/2024(1/10/2004)

Northern, Jeffrey Scott,
10/11/2024(8/2/2022)

Nunley, Danny J.,
10/20/2024(3/8/2013)

Osborne, Steve E.,
9/9/2024(9/22/1995)

Owens, Edward L.,
10/16/2024(5/7/1988)

Pack, William F., Jr.,
10/16/2024(1/21/1984)

Paris, Joel D.,
10/2/2024(4/14/2005)

Park, Dwight K.,
10/8/2022(1/13/2012)

Parkey, Marion Chandler,
7/28/2024(12/4/2002)

Parrish, Ronald L.,
9/22/2024(10/5/2013)

Partain, Lewis M.,
8/24/2024(11/21/1991)

Piasecki, Michael L.,
10/2/2024(5/2/2007)

Porter, Lawrence W., Jr.,
6/27/2024(8/16/1988)

Potter, George V.,
9/5/2024(1/2/2010)

Rains, June C.,
10/6/2024(12/13/1992)

Rankin, Charles R.,
8/25/2024(10/1/2005)

Reeves, S. Russell,
7/31/2024(4/5/1986)

Renfroe, James A.,
7/31/2024(11/14/1995)

Robinson, Estel L.,
8/2/2024(5/29/1999)

Ross, Van W.,
8/28/2024(5/13/2005)

Rozek, John S.,
9/1/2024(1/1/1988)

Sharpe, Billie M.,
7/9/2024(10/25/1987)

Shasteen, Lynn R.,
8/19/2024(11/26/1994)

Shaver, Jo Anne,
8/10/2024(11/2/2003)

Short, Allen F.,
12/22/2023(10/31/1983)

Shropshire, Brodrick L.,
9/10/2024(3/12/2014)

Silvers, Thomas L.,
8/14/2024(12/19/1991)

Silvestri, Sandra S.,
8/9/2024(3/23/1999)

Simpson, Donald R.,
10/3/2024(2/11/1997)

Spence, Jack K., Jr.,
8/25/2024(5/6/1991)

Spurgeon, Marilyn C.,
10/5/2024(6/27/1981)

Strange, Nelle Irwin,
9/23/2024(10/6/1990)

Sylvester, Kenneth D.,
9/6/2024(1/3/1999)

Szczepanski, Felix A., Jr.,
8/2/2024(10/1/1988)

Thomas, Grady W.,
8/20/2024(8/7/1993)

Thomas, Wanda F.,
7/26/2024(9/12/1983)

Trabue, Bernyce E.,
10/10/2024(10/1/1988)

Tucker, Jerrell W.,
9/24/2024(10/17/1994)

Turner, Kenneth F.,
10/10/2024(10/1/1988)

Vaughan, William K.,
9/24/2024(5/5/2001)

Wade, Mary Jo,
9/16/2024(2/1/1999)

Wagner, James F.,
10/18/2024(8/30/1988)

Waldrep, Junior O'Neal,
9/29/2024(3/1/2014)

Webb, Donald M.,
10/15/2024(6/3/2003)

Webb, Freddie V.,
8/3/2024(6/5/1999)

Webb, William A.,
10/17/2024(7/29/1989)

Whitt, John E.,
10/14/2024(1/21/1995)

Williams, John M.,
7/24/2024(6/15/1991)

Wilson, Billy G.,
8/13/2024(1/2/1999)

Wilson, Susan D.,
9/3/2024(7/28/1994)

Womac, James C.,
8/9/2024(3/3/2007)

Woodruff, Nancy A.,
1/31/2024(10/17/1994)

Zills, Larry W.,
8/6/2024(1/3/2000)

Has Your Contact Information Changed?

Did you recently change your email address or phone number? If so, go to mytvara.org/your-current-membership-information/ and correct the appropriate data. If you have changed your home address recently, notify the TVA Retirement System in writing. Also, you can change your home address through the Bank of New York Mellon website: bnym.accessmyretirement.com.



Upcoming December 2024 Chapter Meetings

BROWNS FERRY

December 10, 2024, Noon

Catfish Cabin II, 908 U.S. 72 E., Athens, Ala.

- Program/Guest Speaker: TBD
- David C. Matherly Jr., President
- 256-777-2175/dcmatherly@gmail.com

CHATTANOOGA

December 3, 2024, 10 a.m.

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

- Meet 'n' Greet
- Program: Wrap presents for Chambliss Center Children's Home while listening to holiday music and snacking on cookies, doughnuts, and hot chocolate
- Tom Swanson, President
- 423-344-6892/twswanson@comcast.net

CLEVELAND

December 9, 2024, 11 a.m.

Restaurant TBD

- Guest Speaker: TBD
- John Austin, President
- 423-472-2720/austintnutfan@charter.net

GALLATIN

December 11, 2024, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Gallatin Public Library,
123 E. Main St.*

- Program: Christmas carols and sandwiches
- James R. "Blue" Monday, President
- 615-481-8469/oemorgan@comcast.net

HUNTSVILLE

December 12, 2024, 10 a.m.

TVA Shields Office Building, 370 Shields Road

- Guest Speaker: Bob Barnes, retired TVA Safety Manager, will share information on Rotary International activities and safety tips and other topics for retirees
- Daniel A. Simmons, President
- 256-509-9781/dasimmon@bellsouth.net

JACKSON

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

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

- Guest Speaker: TBD
- Alan Campbell, President
- 731-988-8814/abcjax@eplus.net

JOHNSONVILLE/CUMBERLAND

December 12, 2024, 10 a.m.

Meeting at 11 a.m.

*Country & Western Steakhouse,
Highway 641 N., Camden, Tenn.*

- Christmas meeting
- Guest Speakers: Donna Vick from Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee; TVA Benefits representative presentation on retiree medical insurance and benefits
- Annual election of new officers, discuss November TVARA Board meeting
- Door prizes will be awarded
- All are welcome
- Mickey Blackburn, President
- 931-209-1352/mwblackb56@gmail.com

KNOXVILLE

December 10, 10:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

The Foundry, 747 World's Fair Park Drive

- Christmas Luncheon
- 10:30 a.m. registration
- 11:30 a.m. lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Guest Speaker: Representative from TVA River Operations
- Cost \$20 — Must register online by Dec. 3
- Ron Riberich, President
- 865-679-1565/rjriberich@comcast.net

MEMPHIS

December 11, 2024, 11 a.m.

*One & Only (BBQ), 6575 Airways Blvd.,
Southaven, Miss.*

- Program: Holiday celebration and planning for 2025
- Guest Speaker: TBD
- Jeffrey M. H. Allen, President
- 901-484-4282/jeffreymhallen1@gmail.com

MISSISSIPPI

December 10, 2024, 10 a.m.

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

- Guest Speaker: Amy Tate, Executive Director, TVA Southwest Region
- Judy J. Bright, President
- 662-791-9779/bright.judy@gmail.com

MUSCLE SHOALS

December 11, 2024, 10 a.m.

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

- Guest Speaker: Representative from TVA Retirement System
- Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President
- 256-483-5917/timwccornelius1@gmail.com

Getting in touch with TVARA

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

TVARA 865-632-3318

Vickie Ellis, TVARA President
tvrapresident@gmail.com/865-805-1512

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

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

**Richard T. Wilson Jr.,
TVARA Membership Program Manager**
rtwilson@tva.gov/865-632-8542

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

NASHVILLE

December 12, 10 a.m.

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

- Christmas meal and get-together
- Jeff Gammons, President
- 931-729-9974/y2kunderthehill@gmail.com

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

December 10, 2024, 11 a.m.

Western Sizzlin, 1130 Highway 28, Jasper, Tenn.

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

PADUCAH AREA

December 17, 2024, 10 a.m.

Pizza Inn, 1001 Joe Clifton Drive

- Guest Speaker: Representative from TVA Retirement System
- Election of officers
- Door prizes
- Ken Dickerson, President
- 270-442-9539/kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net

PARADISE

December 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

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

- Guest Speaker: TVA representative on supplemental benefits
- Vernon R. Perry, President
- 270-543-4707/vrperry76@gmail.com

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

December 11, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

Historic Hale Springs Inn, McKinney's Restaurant & Tavern, Rogersville, Tenn.

- Buffet Luncheon \$22 per person; reservations MANDATORY (maximum 60 seats available)
- RSVP by Dec. 5, leaving your plus guest's name and phone number(s); call Denver at 423-587-6505 or Steve at 423-967-0006 or Les at 423-782-8458 (if you make a reservation and do not show up, you still need to pay)

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

WATTS BAR AREA

December 9, 11 a.m.

Winstead's American Grill, 22456 Rhea County Highway, Spring City, Tenn.

- Guest Speaker: Vickie Ellis, TVARA Valleywide President
- J. Ed Couch, President
- 423-551-1226/jeductu@gmail.com

WESTERN AREA

December 4, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

*Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Meeting Room,
3500 State Park Road, Cadiz, Ky.*

- Guest Speaker: Mark Meigs, Executive Secretary, TVA Retirement System
- K. Renee Turnbow, President
- 270-205-5277/krturnbow@gmail.com



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

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A message from TVA ...

At TVA, we're driving America's energy future. Built for the people more than 91 years ago, TVA strives to make life better for the communities and people we serve.

Our unique, longstanding mission of service drives and inspires us daily to pursue new ideas and innovative solutions.

We're committed to delivering affordable, reliable energy to customers throughout our seven-state region.

We are stewards of our environment, protecting and preserving the region's land, water, and air.

We attract investment and jobs to help sustain a thriving economy.

And, today, we're collaborating with partners to ensure this region continues to be a great place to live, work, and play in the decades ahead.

We cannot meet the energy needs of tomorrow by making small changes today. It will require innovation, collaboration, and pushing TVA, the industry, and the nation to make our vision for tomorrow a reality.

As you'll see by the highlights shared in this year's annual report, TVA made great strides in FY 2024 to advance these efforts.

Read the full FY 2024 Annual Report at tva.com/annualreport. If that doesn't work, add <http://> at the beginning of the address.

TVARS reports assets...continued from page 1

Support Program Manager, TVA Power Service Shops, Muscle Shoals, who has served on the board since Nov. 1, 2018. His new three-year term will run from Nov. 1, 2024, to Oct. 31, 2027.

Also, the TVARS Board recently unanimously voted to select Marilyn G. Brown, who currently serves as the seventh director on the board, to serve a new three-year term from Nov. 1, 2024, to Oct. 31, 2027.

Special Election

Michael Blakely, an elected TVARS Board Director, resigned for the term that runs from Nov. 1, 2022, to Oct. 31, 2025. The vacancy will be filled by a special election and announced on the TVARS website.

Cost-of-living adjustments

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

the price changes in a broad group of various goods and services purchased by consumers. Under the TVARS Rules, the COLA is calculated as the percentage change in the average CPI-U for the period of November 2022-October 2023 to the period of November 2023-October 2024, minus 0.25 percent. This information was not available at press time, but it will be communicated on the TVARS website and on the January statements. Eligible retirees and beneficiaries will see the increase in payments beginning Jan. 31.

Bank of New York Mellon

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