

# 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

## TVARS remains strong as 2025 comes to end

By COURTNEY HAMMONTREE  
Lead Benefits Consultant, TVA Retirement Operations

As of December 2025, the TVA Retirement System remains in a strong financial position. Pension-fund assets are estimated at about \$8.5 billion, with the funded status approaching 90%, reflecting continued stability and security for members.

The TVARS 401(k) Plan also continues to grow steadily, ending December with a net asset value of about \$5.7 billion — underscoring the Retirement System’s commitment to helping members build long-term retirement confidence.

Global markets delivered strong annual results in 2025, with U.S. equities gaining about 18%, supported by technology leadership and broad-based strength. International equities also advanced significantly, with the developed markets up 28% and the emerging markets returning 34%.

Fixed income posted solid gains, as the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index returned 7% for the year. Commodities were mixed — precious metals rose, with silver up about 6%, while oil declined roughly 20%. The U.S. dollar weakened by 9-10%, providing a boost to non-U.S. assets.

Amid ongoing market fluctuations and geopolitical uncertainties, maintaining discipline and focusing on long-term goals is essential. The TVARS portfolios remain broadly diversified and strategically positioned to achieve their objectives. The

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## Same Sense of Service Saluted in New Year '26

By VICKIE ELLIS, TVARA Valleywide President



VICKIE ELLIS

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, and joy.

As we proceed through this new year, I want to thank you for the

incredible work you continue to do in your communities. Your dedication to service projects and volunteer efforts truly reflects the spirit of our organization and makes a lasting impact across all 18 chapters.

This year, many of us have experienced challenging winter weather. I want to express our gratitude to TVA employees for their outstanding work in managing energy demand during those difficult conditions. Their efforts helped keep our homes warm and safe, and we appreciate their commitment to serving our region.

We have several new staffing changes to share. Three chapters have new presidents who assumed their new role in January. They are as follows:

- Chattanooga Chapter — Denny Forster
- Cleveland Chapter — Michael Baines
- Knoxville Chapter — Leslie Bazzoon

Former TVARA Valleywide President Theresa Habiger has worked on the editorial staff of this newsletter since 2012, with primary responsibility for facilitating the content of the many articles we see each quarter. This is her last issue, and we are sad to see her go, but excited for the new things she will do in her “retirement”!

During our strategic-planning process last year, we received strong feedback saying we should have a staff person responsible for communications/marketing efforts to facilitate communications with members through the newsletter, webpage, chapter meetings, etc. Suzan Bowman, also a former TVARA Valleywide President, has assumed those responsibilities for TVARA, and we are excited to work with her in this new role. Expect to hear more from Suzan soon!

As printing and mailing costs have continued to rise, we will be moving this newsletter to an all-digital distribution. Beginning in June, if we have your email address, you will receive the newsletter electronically. If you need a printed copy, please request one from Richard Wilson at [rtwilson@tva.gov](mailto:rtwilson@tva.gov) or call 865-632-3318.

Finally, please join me in welcoming the new TVA Board members. We are excited about the leadership they bring, and we look forward to working

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**Jo Anne Lavender**  
 Immediate Past President

**Les Bays**  
 Vice President

**Kathryn Davis**  
 Secretary

**Lisa Overly**  
 Treasurer

**Penny Walker**  
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**Retiree or Beneficiary Death Notification**

Notify the TVA Retirement System by email or phone.

**Fidelity 401(k) Plan**

Phone: 800-354-7121, toll-free

Online: [nb.fidelity.com/public/nb/tva/home](http://nb.fidelity.com/public/nb/tva/home)

**BNY Mellon Payments**

Phone: 844-545-1256, toll-free

Online: [tvars.com/retirees](http://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](http://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

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TVARA's Web address is [mytvara.org](http://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, TVA Communications:

## Four New Directors Restore Board Quorum

Four new members have joined the Tennessee Valley Authority's Board of Directors, restoring quorum to the nine-member group.

Art Graham, Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, and Randy Jones assumed their roles after taking the oath of office. They join Board Chair Bill Renick and Directors Bobby Klein and Wade White.



Bill Renick



Bobby Klein



Wade White

Renick says he welcomed the expansion, which will allow the Board to establish broad strategies and long-range plans.

"It is a privilege to welcome Art, Mitch, Jeff, and Randy to the TVA Board of Directors," he says. "They have built businesses, served on the board of their local power companies ranging in size and location, and understand how TVA operates in a complex, highly regulated environment.

"I am looking forward to working together on behalf of the people of the Tennessee Valley."

TVA Chief Executive Officer/President Don Moul says the new directors will help TVA meet the energy needs both of a fast-growing region and the nation.

"As we look at the challenges and opportunities our region faces, I am confident their experience will be an asset to TVA," he says. "I am excited to work together to meet rising energy demand and build America's energy future."

President Donald Trump nominated Graves, Hagood, and Jones on July 1, 2025, and Graham on July 16. The Senate confirmed them on Dec. 18.

Together they bring a variety of experience to the board.

Graham, of Jacksonville, Fla., has served on the Florida Public Service Commission for 15 years, overseeing utilities in the state, working to hold down rates for consumers and businesses.



Art Graham

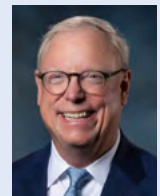
Previously, he served on the Jacksonville City Council, where he oversaw the budget of JEA, a publicly owned utility, and was on the City Council in Jacksonville Beach, which owns and operates the Beaches Energy electric utility.

His TVA term will expire May 18, 2026.

"Throughout my career, I've worked to ensure utilities are providing reliable service, affordable rates, and resilient infrastructure," Graham says. "TVA's work is vital not only to the Valley region but to the nation. At this pivotal moment in the energy sector, I'm committed to helping it meet the challenges of rapid growth and energy transition.

"I look forward to bringing my experience and dedication to this role, and to working with my fellow Board members to serve the people and industries that depend on TVA every day."

Graves, of Memphis, Tenn., has served on the Memphis Light, Gas, & Water Board for nearly a decade, including time as chair and interim CEO. He serves as CEO of the West Cancer Center & Research Institute and has more than 30 years of healthcare-leadership experience.



Mitch Graves

As a lifelong and fourth-generation Memphian, Graves has remained active in his community, serving numerous local organizations.

His term will expire May 18, 2029.

"Growing up in Memphis, I've seen firsthand how TVA uplifts families and businesses by providing reliable, affordable power and economic-development opportunities," Graves says. "This is an exciting time in our region as we look to meet growing demand and power future growth in the Valley. As a Board member,

I'm committed to ensuring TVA stays true to its mission and continues to deliver on behalf of the people we serve."



Jeff Hagood

Hagood, of Knoxville, Tenn., is a lawyer and businessman who for decades has provided legal counsel to leaders across the Tennessee Valley in business, sports, politics, and community life.

He also has built a diverse portfolio of successful business ventures, and he offers strategic counsel on numerous charitable boards. Hagood grew up down the road from John Sevier Fossil Plant, and his mother and other family members worked for TVA.

His term will expire May 18, 2029.

"I am deeply grateful to President Trump for nominating me to the TVA Board of Directors and sincerely thankful for the support of Sen. Blackburn, Sen. Hagerty, and the entire Senate in confirming my appointment," Hagood says. "TVA has long been an important part of my life, and I look forward to contributing to the continued betterment of this beautiful Valley and the people who call it home."

Jones, of Guntersville, Ala., served on the City of Guntersville Electric Board for 17 years, with six years as chairman. He founded a successful insurance agency, headquartered in Albertville, Ala., and established a long record of civic and professional leadership.



Randy Jones

Jones has been a resident of Guntersville for 45 years and serves his community on the Jacksonville State University Board of Directors and the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors, and he has been a member of the Albertville Rotary Club for 48 years.

His term will expire May 18, 2028.

"As someone who has lived in Guntersville for over 45 years, I understand the vital role TVA plays in powering our communities, protecting our environment and driving economic opportunity," he says. "As a Board member, I'll keep my focus on protecting the ratepayer and advocating for the needs of both rural and urban communities across the region.



Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

"I believe TVA's mission of service is as relevant today as it was at its founding, and I'm honored to help guide its future. Together, we can ensure TVA continues to be a partner for the communities it serves."

### NRC Greenlights Renewal of Browns Ferry License

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved TVA's subsequent license renewal (SLR) application for continued operation of all three Units at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

This approval allows each unit to continue operating for an additional 20 years from the current renewed operating license, which expires in 2033 for Unit 1, in 2034 for Unit 2, and in 2036 for Unit 3. The SLR approval means Browns Ferry will remain available for baseload generation until 2053 for Unit 1, until 2054 for Unit 2, and until 2056 for Unit 3.

On Dec. 12, a license-signing ceremony was held onsite at Browns Ferry to commemorate this significant milestone. Officials from the NRC, along with Browns Ferry Leadership, Chief Nuclear Officer Matt Rasmussen, and TVA Chief Executive Officer/President Don Moul, welcomed delegates from local power companies, regional customers, and local, state, and federal government agencies to recognize this milestone, which will have positive impacts on TVA's ability to support economic expansion for years to come.

"Leading this nation toward nuclear-energy dominance is about more than the number of units or our megawatt capacity. It's about an entire team of nuclear professionals committed to safety — during every second, every task, every day," Moul says. "The nuclear professionals we have here at Browns Ferry and across the fleet who have performed the work to make these units more resilient and efficient for decades to come is

what makes this a milestone moment."

Rasmussen says this milestone could not have been achieved "without employees — past and present — who have consistently prioritized teamwork and innovation to make Browns Ferry one of the nation's safest and most reliable nuclear plants. Because of their efforts, this renewed license will support TVA's long-term energy strategy to maintain a resilient and affordable power system."

The process to obtain subsequent license renewal was a well-coordinated effort by the team that worked to ensure that the application itself was completed with the highest standards.

"Extensive reviews and analysis of our units and processes were required to complete the SLR application prior to submittal," Site Vice President Daniel Komm says. "Along with our entire organization, I want to also recognize the efforts of the License Renewal team, under the direction of Carol Barajas and Pete Donohue, who led this effort in collaboration with fleet and industry organizations.

"Our approval demonstrates the value we hold for safely operating our units and for performing quality maintenance and upgrades on our equipment to ensure we are equipped to service the Valley for many years ahead."

### TVA Builds Toolbox of 'Best-Fit' Solutions

Do you have a well-stocked toolbox at your house? One that enables you to efficiently and cost-effectively tackle home projects that extend the life of your home without breaking the bank?

On a much larger scale, employees in

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# Did you receive your 2026 HSA contribution?

By SANDIE SMITH, Program Manager, Benefits & Well-Being

TVA has transitioned Health Savings Account services from HSA Bank to Fidelity Investment. If you're currently enrolled in one of TVA's Consumer-Directed Health Plans and haven't yet received your 2026 HSA Employer Contribution, please complete the following steps:

1. Visit [tva.com/retireeportal](https://tva.com/retireeportal) and submit the Retiree Medical Open Enrollment Form to [benefits@tva.gov](mailto:benefits@tva.gov) to begin the account setup process. Once you click on "health benefits for retirees," the form can be found in the Health Savings Account section.
2. Create your Fidelity HSA account at [netbenefits.com](https://netbenefits.com).
3. After your account is ready to accept deposits, TVA will send your contribution based on your medical-plan election.

Act now to avoid delays! Completing these steps ensures you will receive your HSA contribution promptly and can take advantage of your benefits.



## Same Sense of Service...continued from page 1

together to make this year one of growth and success.

Looking ahead, I encourage each of you to stay engaged and involved in your local chapter and community. Whether through chapter activities, volunteer opportunities, or simply lending a helping hand, your participation strengthens our mission and brings us closer together.

## 3 Cheers for Our Volunteers!

by PENNY WALKER, TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator

### Browns Ferry Ends Year by Spreading Holiday Cheer

Browns Ferry's TVA Retirees Association Chapter helped cap a year of volunteer service by chapter retirees Valleywide by giving Christmas checks totaling \$750 to aid their communities. The funds came from the chapter's bank account of its share of collected TVARA dues.

A \$250 check went to Community Table in Athens, Ala., which provides food and other assistance to needy families in Limestone County.

The chapter provided another \$250 to Committee on Church Cooperation in Decatur, Ala. That organization also offers food, clothing, and more to homeless and needy families.

The third \$250 check was given to members of the junior class at Lauderdale County High School. Each year the school's juniors collect funds and coordinate with their teachers to identify needy children. Then the students shop for presents for the children.

*(See related article on page 6 on TVARA community involvement.)*



Browns Ferry TVARA Chapter President David Matherly presents a \$250 check to Ashley Boyd, Manager of the Committee on Church Cooperation in Decatur, Ala.

## TVARS Update...continued from page 1

Retirement System's priority continues to be mitigating risk and promoting stability across assets.

### Bank of New York Mellon

To get a reprint of your 1099-R tax form or to access your monthly direct-deposit statements, visit [tvars.com/retirees](https://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](mailto:tvars@tva.gov) or call 800-824-3870.

## 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](https://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](https://bnym.accessmyretirement.com).





# Connecting Valley Leaders to Washington Officials

By BEVIN TAYLOR, TVA Vice President, Government Relations



BEVIN TAYLOR

In recent months, TVA added new leaders to its Board of Directors, connected with elected officials and administration officials in Washington, and showcased its employees' work by bringing D.C. leadership to the Tennessee Valley for meetings and tours. Through these opportunities — and efforts to support growth across our booming region with affordable, reliable power — TVA has met

the moment of unleashing American energy and deepened important partnerships at the highest levels.

## TVA Board Update

Before the end of the year, on Dec. 18, the U.S. Senate confirmed TVA Board nominees Art Graham, Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, and Randy Jones. They were sworn in a few weeks later, in early January, officially joining Directors Bill Renick, Wade White, and Bobby Klein. With this action, quorum has been restored to the TVA Board, with two open seats remaining. Also this year, President Trump renominated Lee Beaman of Nashville to one of the seats and also renominated Art Graham for another term, since his current term is slated to expire in May. TVA appreciates the willingness of these individuals to serve, and the Washington team was looking forward to working with the nominees throughout the confirmation process.

## Showcasing TVA's Nuclear Leadership

In November, TVA Chief Executive Officer/President Don Moul served as conference chair and led a panel discussion at the American Nuclear Society's Winter Conference & Expo in Washington. This was an opportunity to highlight TVA's nuclear-development work to an audience that included industry, policy, and regulatory leaders. The panel included U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann of Tennessee, who commented positively on TVA's nuclear initiatives during the discussion. In early January, TVA announced a \$3-million investment in the University of Tennessee's Nuclear Engineering Department, prompting further praise from lawmakers. Tennessee Sen. Bill Hagerty said this was "how Tennessee leads!"

## Meetings Held with Labor Secretary, Energy Dominance Council

In December, senior TVA leadership visited Washington for meetings with U.S. Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer and members of the White House Energy Dominance Council. Council members included U.S.

Department of Energy Secretary Chris Wright, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin. We appreciated the opportunity to hear from the council members and to share information on TVA's investments in new and existing power-system assets and new nuclear. The meeting with the Labor Secretary also was successful, setting the groundwork for her to later visit Tennessee.



U.S. Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer with, from left, TVA Chief Business Officer Jeremy Fischer, CEO/President Don Moul, and Chief Administrative Officer Will Trumm

## Labor Secretary Visits Cumberland Fossil Plant

In January, TVA welcomed Labor Secretary Chavez-DeRemer to Cumberland Fossil Plant for a visit focused on innovation, workforce development, and America's energy future. During the visit, she visited with TVA employees and praised their work, saying, "Thank you for your commitment to supporting our workforce. Your efforts help us provide good-paying jobs with fair benefits, so every worker can return home safely at the end of the day."



Labor Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, with workers Jason Page (left) and John Downs at Cumberland Fossil Plant

# Building Communities, Building Relationships, by Building Beds

By LIBERTY PHILLIPS

With sawdust blowing through the Hardin Valley Event Center in Knoxville, a group of 40 TVA employees, TVA retirees, and community leaders built 40 beds in early November.

The event, part of a Combined Federal Campaign effort encouraging service, was more than just a volunteer effort — it was a celebration of community spirit and shared purpose.

Hosted in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization dedicated to ending child bedlessness, the TVA employees and retirees worked side by side with city officials and volunteers from the broader Knoxville community, united by a common nationwide goal — ensuring that every child has a safe, comfortable place to sleep.

“I heard about the organization and decided to start it up in this area,” said Bill Thompson, the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Knoxville chapter president. “I was really surprised by the need, but it is tremendous.”

The day began with video messages from Knoxville’s City Mayor, Indya Kincannon, and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. Both expressed deep gratitude for the volunteers’ efforts and emphasized the importance of addressing this often-overlooked need.

Jane Jolley, Knox County Community Engagement Director, read a letter of appreciation from Mayor Jacobs. Other public officials — state Rep. Justin Lafferty and Knox County Commissioners Terry Hill and Gina Oster — shared their support by volunteering with the group.

“I was so inspired by the donation that Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. made back in September that I wanted TVARA to support it as well,” said Vickie Ellis, Valleywide President of the TVA Retirees Association. “So we organized a Valleywide effort to carry out bed-build



TVARA and TVA participants in the Knoxville bed-building project included, from left, front row (TVARA indicated by \*), Reny McClain Lee\*, Julia Drain, Melissa Greene, Cathy Wahl, Leslie Bazzoon\*, Suzan Bowman\*, and Katie Rievley; back row, Chris Crim, Ashley Walker, Liberty Phillips, Mike Halley\*, Mark McNeely\*, Tom Satkowiak, DeWitt Burleson\*, Bill Haire\*, Vyrone Cravanas\*, and Mike Parker\*. Not pictured are Sammy Sweetland\* and Debbie Rutherford\*.



Knoxville TVARA Chapter President Leslie Bazzoon operates a chop saw, while TVA’s Chris Crim works at far left, among a group of 40 individuals including TVA retirees and employees, along with local community leaders and volunteers, who teamed to build 40 beds in one day for children who have no beds.

projects in Muscle Shoals, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. Muscle Shoals did theirs back in September, and Chattanooga’s planning is underway.”

For many volunteers, the experience was humbling.

“It’s easy to take something like a bed for granted,” said Reny McClain Lee, TVA retiree and TVARA Event Organizer. “But hearing the stories of children who sleep on floors or couches really puts things into perspective.”

Throughout the day, the sound of drills and saws echoed through the build site, as teams assembled bed frames, sanded wood, and packed bedding kits.

“It is such a great feeling to know that not only am I serving my community, I am serving the children TVA Retirees Association works with through the United Way Community Schools program,” said Ashley Walker, TVA Senior Social Media Specialist. “It is a wonderful example of how TVA cares about the communities apart from providing electricity to them.”

By day’s end, the team had built dozens of beds and prepared them for delivery. But participants agreed

the impact extended far beyond the physical structures. It sparked conversations, built new relationships, and reminded everyone involved of the power of action.

“We didn’t just build beds today — we built hope,” TVA retiree Mike Halley said. “TVA’s mission of service doesn’t end with retirement.”

TVARA’s Ellis said this event served as a shining example of how TVA’s employees and partners live out the enterprise’s values, not just in the workplace, but in the community.

*(See related article on page 4 on TVARA community involvement.)*

News & Notes...continued from page 3

TVA's Transmission and its Innovation & Research departments are building an expansive toolbox — one with new tools that will strengthen TVA's future grid performance.

“The energy landscape is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and the decisions TVA makes today will define our ability to deliver reliable, resilient, cost-effective energy for decades to come,” Greg Henrich, Senior Vice President of Transmission, says. “We’re developing a comprehensive, flexible toolbox of grid-supporting technologies today to meet the needs of tomorrow.”

For TVA, grid-supporting technologies fall into two categories — proven technologies that it hasn’t used before but is considering for the future, and emerging technologies that are in various stages of design or testing.

In either category, TVA's goal is the same — to strategically evaluate, actively pilot, and, over time, incorporate new technologies that will help transmit power more efficiently, provide more flexibility and transmission capacity, and reduce the need to build new transmission lines and procure new rights of way — all while maintaining the reliable energy delivery the Tennessee Valley depends on.

“Load growth is causing the need for increased transmission capacity,” says Tim Willis, Director of Transmission Engineering. “Traditional upgrades such as new transmission lines take a significant amount of time to engineer and construct, so we are assessing the viability of these innovative technologies so we can apply them as best-fit solutions and increase the capacity of our existing lines.”

TVA is collaborating with external partners on a handful of grid-supporting technology projects. For example:

- TVA is evaluating the use of synchronous condensers, an existing technology that operates as a motor, connects to the grid, and regulates voltage and improves stability. TVA has a project to convert the retired Bull Run Fossil Plant into a synchronous condenser.
- TVA has begun using advanced conductors on the system. The advanced conductors can support increased capacity on the system for load growth, without having to replace structures and towers.
- TVA also is participating in a pilot with multiple vendors using four different Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technologies, and EPRI, one of the world’s leading independent research organizations, to evaluate DLR systems designed to increase capacity by providing transmission ratings that accurately reflect real-time conditions.

Chris Burge, NERC Planning Coordinator, says partnerships with vendors, organizations such as EPRI, research facilities, national laboratories, and other utilities enhance this work.

“These partnerships are important because they mean we are

not doing the work in a vacuum,” Burge says. “The collaboration reduces the risk for all of us, because as partners evaluate and test these technologies, they bring that knowledge to the table and share best practices.”

The technologies are intended to enhance the following:

- Transmission-system flexibility
- Increased capacity for system changes such as load growth
- Expansion of the portfolio of power-generation resources

TVA uses a full list of criteria to evaluate each technology and considers factors such as how fast a technology would be available for deployment, its cost, the risk involved, and how well it solves a particular challenge.

“TVA works with external research and development partners like EPRI to scope and fund lab testing as well as scientific pilot projects, so we are comfortable with the pros and cons before making a decision about whether to mass-deploy a technology, especially complex ones like grid-supporting technologies,” says Michael McAmis, Senior Program Manager of Grid Research & Development. “A well-designed pilot project can help familiarize us with new tools and open the door to innovation in operations.”

TVA continues to develop its comprehensive strategy for guiding exploration, assessing viability, and preparing for technology deployment.

“This is exciting and important work,” Willis says. “We are expanding our toolbox and preparing for the future.”



Rachel Moore, EPRI's Program Manager of Overhead Transmission, shows Michael McAmis, TVA's Senior Program Manager of Grid Research & Development, a conductor-testing rig onsite at EPRI.

# Tripping the Lens Fantastically

## 7 Weeks, 2 Cameras, Ocala to Øvre-Eide

By SHARON WRIGHT COTTRELL



When you are confronted with a seven-week adventure that includes ocean voyages, six countries, and four of the largest cities in the world, what do you do?

If you are an enthusiastic photographer, you take ridiculous numbers of pictures on two cameras, carefully bring them back home, funnel them into Lightroom on your computer, edit the best, and begin sharing images from your journey.

This past spring, my husband and I set off on a journey across the Atlantic from Florida to Portugal, Spain, France, London, Norway, and back to New York City.

Our adventure started on April 29, 2025, by driving to Ocala, Fla., for a first-night stay at the Equestrian Hotel. This hotel is at the heart of the World Equestrian Center of Ocala, a massive, 2,000-acre complex of indoor and outdoor arenas making up a world-class exposition center for multiple equestrian events throughout the year.



Sharon Cottrell and husband, Brad, aboard the *Queen Mary 2*

Traveling the next day to Miami, we were eager to set sail on the beautiful new *Oceania Vista* and begin its transatlantic Continental Elegance 21-day voyage with 13 ports.

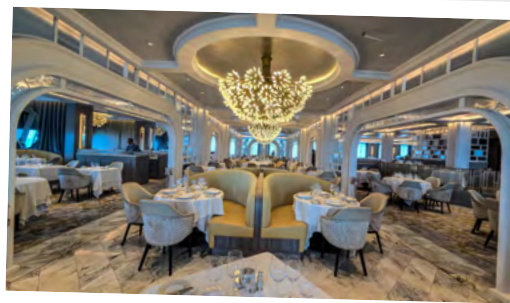
Our first two ports were on the beautiful beaches of Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas, and Horseshoe Bay in Bermuda. The third port was a voyage highlight in the Azore Islands, where we saw the beautiful Sete Cidades twin lakes and a pineapple plantation.

Next, 12 days out from Miami, we arrived at the beautiful Iberian Coastal city of Lisbon, Portugal. We sailed under the

25 April Bridge into the great natural harbor formed by the Tagus River and experienced one of the most picturesque scenes in Europe.

The Rua Augusta Arch is a very impressive sight and made a beautiful entrance to the city, where we saw the world's oldest bookstore, nestled among beautiful tiled buildings and plazas.

Excursions to the beautiful historic city of Sintra and the charming coastal city of Cascais completed our Lisbon-area visit. Oporto, Portugal, another Iberian Coastal city, is on the Douro River. Oporto has more



The *Oceania Vista* and one of its elegant dining rooms



Rossio Square in Lisbon



The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain



Calem Winery in Oporto, Lisbon

colorful boats and architecture in one location than we have ever seen. A Port-wine tasting complemented our visit there.

The Spanish Basque Country town of Bilbao features the Guggenheim Museum, with its award-winning architecture. The Spanish Galician town of La Coruna has a circular waterfront promenade. Both these attractions are unforgettable.

The French Basque towns of St. Jean de Luz and Biarritz are examples of French summer resorts. The French wine-country city of Bordeaux has a new vertical-lift bridge built to allow cruise ships to enter Bordeaux by the Garonne River. Historic St. Emilion is smaller and quieter, with narrow passageways and inviting storefronts. The picturesque seaside town of Honfleur has the nearby World War II Normandy beaches and American Cemetery — significant

reminders of our world history.

Audrey Hepburn is widely quoted as having said in the movie “Sabrina” that “Paris is always a good idea.” And while the internet says that’s not exactly what she said, Paris is indeed always a good idea! We had breakfast at Les Deux Magots, a cafe gathering place for current literary and intellectual figures, that was once a favorite of Ernest Hemingway. We visited Le Bon Marche, the world’s oldest department store. While



Arco da Rua Augusta in Lisbon

*Continued on next page*



Clockwise from upper left: the Eiffel Tower and Pont Alexandre III bridge spanning the Seine River, Paris; Pont Jacques Chaban-Delmas vertical-lift bridge, Bordeaux, France; Chateau Fleur de Lisse Winery in Saint-Emilion, France; and Place de la Bourse in Bordeaux, France



Harrods Department Store, London



Buckingham Palace Mall, London



King's Cross Station, London

standing by the River Seine near the Alexandre III bridge, we could see the Eiffel Tower in all its splendor.

Our first cruise ended in Southampton, England, and we were thrilled to move on to London for a week at our favorite hotel, The Goring, the only family-owned hotel in London,

where the staff treats you royally and the food is fantastic. I can understand why The Goring dining room was Queen Elizabeth's favorite place to dine, and why Kate Middleton chose to spend the night at The Goring before her wedding to Prince William.



The Goring Hotel, London

Our first day in London, we had lunch at Selfridges rooftop Italian restaurant, Alto by San Carlo, and then strolled down Bond Street, with its multitude of shopping opportunities.

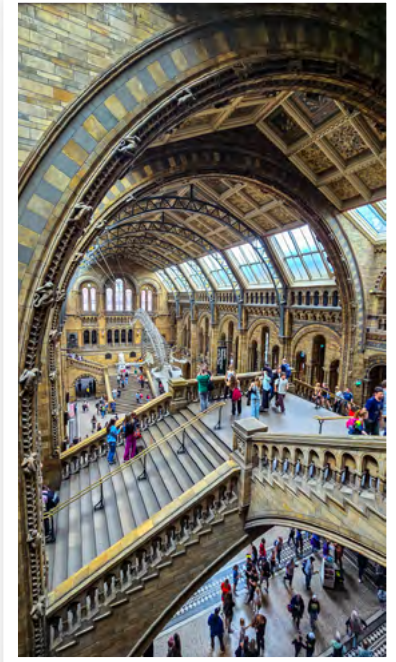
The next day we enjoyed a delightful walk through Hyde Park on our way to our lunch at the Orangery, next to Kensington Palace.

Our ultimate destination that day was Notting Hill's Portobello

Market, renowned for its antiques, vintage clothing, street food, and art.

A favorite attraction in London is the Natural History Museum, where we had an all-day visit and saw one of the most complete specimens of Stegosaurus dinosaurs ever found.

No visit to London is complete without a visit to Harrods, where we spent the day walking through the city-block-size department store. The Royal Exchange and Fortnum & Mason's Bar & Restaurant there are locations to remember, with their beautiful decor.



Natural History Museum, London

I like to photograph train stations, so King's Cross Station and the St. Pancras International Station and associated Renaissance Hotel make superb camera shots for an architecture-lover. We walked several miles every day in London but also used the subway. Established in 1863, it is the oldest underground railway system in the world. It serves 3.2 million passengers daily.

After London, we had an additional seven-day cruise to the fjords of Norway on Cunard's *Queen Mary 2*. We explored three cities and their surrounding countrysides, including the Øvre-Eide Farm near Bergen, the scenic



Alto by San Carlo, London



Portobello Market, London



Fortnum & Mason's Bar & Restaurant in the Royal Exchange, London



Picturesque Art Nouveau architecture in Ålesund, Norway

town of Alesund, the Romsdal Valley, and Bjorli, and the Troll Wall of Andalsnes.

After Norway, we returned to Southampton and stayed on the Queen Mary 2 for our seven-night transatlantic journey to New York City. This transatlantic voyage was our 11th trip across the Atlantic Ocean. Travel on the Queen Mary 2 is exciting, with its daily afternoon teas, ballroom dancing every night, interesting daily lectures on various subjects, and evening performances by talented performers.

At the Brooklyn cruise terminal, we summoned an Uber ride to our Manhattan hotel.

We arrived in New York on our 55th wedding anniversary, so we celebrated by having our own Breakfast at Tiffany's moment in the store's Blue Box Café. Unfortunately, Audrey Hepburn was not there.

We enjoyed several walks in Central Park and had coffee and coconut cake at Ralph's Coffee Shop on Madison Avenue. We searched out several city parks like Greenacre, Bryant, Washington Square, Madison Square, and Union Square, where we could observe the daily lifestyle of New Yorkers.

Train stations like Grand Central and the Moynihan, historical bars like St. Regis's King Cole Bar, the Carlyle Hotel Bemelmans Bar, and Ralph Lauren's Polo Bar made great camera subjects to add to our collection.

And then, it was over.

Driving home from New York was a time for pleasant reflection on our journey — and also a time for planning our next adventure.

*(Sharon Wright Cottrell retired in 2003 after working 29 years for TVA as a*

*Biologist and Conservationist in Norris, a Systems Analyst, Database Analyst, and Data Analyst in Knoxville, and a Power Supply Analyst in Nashville. She and her husband, Brad, have traveled to six continents and 75 countries, and she has created 22 slideshows and 22 photography books of travel photos. She enjoys giving slideshows to various organizations and photography clubs around the East Tennessee area.)*



Inside Grand Central Station, New York



The Blue Box Café, located within Tiffany & Co., New York



King Cole Bar in the St. Regis Hotel, New York

# Spring Getaway to Abingdon, Where an Older Town Welcomes You

By **JULIE GRAHAM**, Explore Tennessee River Valley

Tucked into the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia, Abingdon is one of those older American towns that have been welcoming travelers for generations. With roots stretching back to the mid-1700s, this historic community has grown alongside the nation itself.

Spring is an especially pleasant time to visit, when mild weather, blooming dogwoods, and walkable streets invite you to slow down and enjoy a place shaped by time.

## A Town with a Long Memory

Long before modern highways, Abingdon sat along the **Great Road**, a key passage for pioneers moving west through the Blue Ridge Mountains. Travelers, settlers, and tradespeople all passed through there, leaving behind stories that still echo today. Local legend credits Daniel Boone with naming the area **Wolf Hills** in 1760, after his dogs encountered a pack of wolves — an early chapter in a town that would continue to evolve as the nation grew.

Many buildings in Abingdon's Historic District date back to the late 1700s, offering a tangible connection to early American life. Brick sidewalks, preserved homes, and centuries-old churches make exploring feel less like sightseeing and more like stepping into a living timeline.

## Arts That Have Endured

Abingdon's commitment to the arts is another tradition that has stood the test of time. The **Barter Theatre**, founded in 1933, is the longest-running professional theater in the United States. During the Great Depression, audiences famously paid for admission with vegetables and farm goods — ensuring that live theater remained part of the community even in difficult times.

Nearby, the **William King Museum of Art**, housed in a former railroad station, reflects another layer of American history. Its rotating exhibitions connect past and present, offering visitors a quiet, thoughtful space to enjoy the arts at their own pace.



The Martha Washington Inn & Spa in downtown Abingdon

A must stop is the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center & Marketplace. Here you will find the link between Appalachian cottage crafts and Appalachian heritage.

## Coffee, Dining & Familiar Comforts

A spring morning in Abingdon often begins at **Wolf Hills Coffee**, named for the town's earliest days. It's a welcoming spot to enjoy a cup of coffee and ease into the day — just as travelers have done here for centuries, albeit with different beverages.



Wolf Hills Coffee



The Tavern

For a relaxed meal, **The Tavern** offers classic Southern-inspired dishes in a historic setting. It's the kind of place where conversation lingers and the atmosphere feels comfortably

familiar, making it a favorite for visitors who appreciate tradition and hospitality.

## Resting in History

Few places capture Abingdon's layered past like **The Martha Washington Inn & Spa**. Originally built as a private residence, it became Martha Washington College in 1860 and later reopened as a hotel in 1935. Today, "The



The Virginia Creeper Trail

Martha” continues its role as a place of gathering and rest — much as it has for more than a century.

### Simple Outdoor Pleasures

Even Abingdon's outdoor experiences feel rooted in history. The **Virginia Creeper Trail** follows a former railroad corridor, offering an easy, scenic way to enjoy the landscape. In spring, the trail comes alive with wildflowers and fresh mountain air, perfect for a gentle walk or a quiet moment outdoors.

**Spring in Abingdon** is a reminder that some of America's most meaningful places are the ones that have grown slowly, thoughtfully, and with care. As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, Abingdon stands as an example of an older town still doing what it has always done best — welcoming visitors with stories, culture, and a sense of belonging.

**Festivals across the Valley:** Celebrate the Valley by joining in the fun — whether at a festival or a volunteer event. Mark your calendar for one of these events:

### March

#### 26-29 — Big Ears Festival, Knoxville:

International celebration of music with multiple venues.



Big Ears Festival

#### 28 — Five-County Norris Lake Cleanup, East Tennessee's Norris Lake:

Annual event to do a shoreline cleanup.

### April

#### 16-19 — Tennessee Jazz Festival, Johnson City:

Celebrating the All-American genre, Big Band to Jazz Fusion.

**18-19 — Bloomin Festival, Cullman Ala.:** Two-day juried arts and music festival.

#### 18-19 — Rossini International Street Festival, Knoxville:

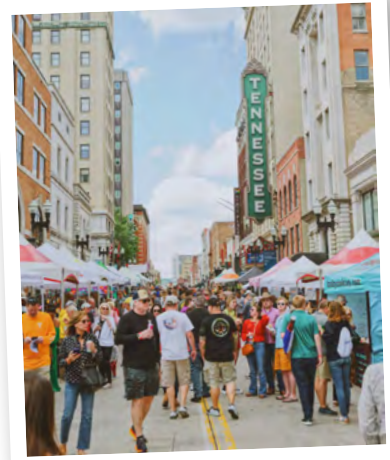
Celebrate the global impact on the music, food, art, and culture of East Tennessee.

#### 21-26 — World's Largest Fish Fry, Paris, Tenn.:

Serving up more than 12,500 pounds of fish.

#### 24-26 — Dogwood Arts Festival, Knoxville:

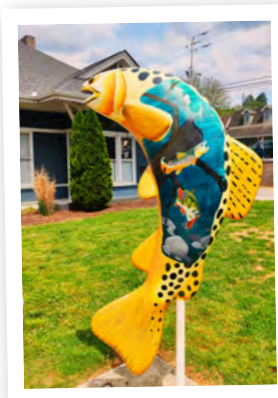
Art fair, music transform World's Fair Park.



Rossini International Street Festival

#### 25 — Blue Ridge Trout Fest, Blue Ridge, Ga.:

Cast, bike, hike, paddle, live music, and shop 130-plus vendors.



Blue Ridge Trout Fest

### May

#### 1-2 — Town & Trail Fest, Hot Springs, N.C.:

Celebration of spring in this Appalachian Trail town.

#### 15-17 — Appalachian Trail Days, Damascus, Va.:

Live music, vendors, and gathering of trail enthusiasts.

#### 16 — Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival, Wartburg, Tenn.:

Music, BBQ, and the Obed Wild & Scenic River draped in blooming bursts of color.



Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival

#### 23-24 — Hiawassee Pro Rodeo, Hiawassee, Ga.:

World-class contestants from all over the United States and Canada.



Blairsville Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival

#### 21-24 — Blairsville Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival, Blairsville, Ga.:

Two-day event with demonstrations, regional crafts, and music.

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

# In Memoriam

Oct. 27, 2025 - Jan. 25, 2026

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period October 27, 2025, through January 25, 2026, 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.

**Abernathy, Donald N.**, 11/27/2025(1/3/2009)  
**Allison, James H.**, 12/16/2025(1/1/1993)  
**Arnold, Pamela K.**, 11/14/2025(7/4/2003)  
**Arp, Ronnie H.**, 12/30/2025(9/29/2007)  
**Austin, Glenn D., Sr.**, 12/9/2025(3/20/2004)  
**Austin, James H., Jr.**, 11/13/2025(8/2/1988)  
**Baird, Robert A.**, 12/23/2025(7/1/1989)  
**Ball, Ernie F.**, 12/17/2025(6/29/1990)  
**Banks, Walter W.**, 10/16/2025(2/15/1997)  
**Baxter, Alice M.**, 12/21/2025(3/2/2009)  
**Bean, Laura C.**, 12/13/2025(12/10/1994)  
**Bennett, Betty B.**, 9/25/2025  
**Bledsoe, Wilson L., Jr.**, 11/15/2025(6/2/1998)  
**Boles, Sarah**, 11/3/2025(3/22/1980)  
**Boren, James L.**, 11/20/2025(12/19/1994)  
**Bowman, L Carl**, 11/15/2025(7/23/1988)  
**Bradley, Andrew T., Jr.**, 10/22/2025(10/1/1988)  
**Brewer, Ronnie C.**, 12/12/2025(3/6/2004)  
**Brock, Robert D.**, 1/4/2026(10/1/1988)  
**Brown, Barbara Peters**, 1/7/2026(10/5/1996)  
**Burke, Baxter D.**, 11/18/2025(12/30/2000)  
**Burnett, Barbara J.**, 12/3/2025(6/21/1997)  
**Burnette, Jack R.**, 10/24/2025(5/13/1993)  
**Carpenter, Diane V.**, 12/10/2025(11/16/1991)  
**Carr, Sarah D.**, 10/26/2025  
**Caruthers, Betty C.**, 1/10/2026(12/30/2000)  
**Clark, Jennie M.**, 10/27/2025(12/29/1992)  
**Cleek, Joann A.**, 12/7/2025(1/5/1988)  
**Coffman, Terry R.**, 11/21/2025(10/1/1988)  
**Coley, Rhoda P.**, 1/17/2026(1/22/1994)  
**Collins, Linda A.**, 11/7/2025(1/8/2005)  
**Counts, Victor D.**, 12/8/2025(5/30/2025)  
**Cox, James D.**, 12/21/2025(10/17/1994)

**Crabtree, Howard D.**, 1/16/2026(1/2/2010)  
**Crenshaw, Frances N.**, 12/12/2025(7/4/1988)  
**Crockett, Nolen J.**, 10/22/2025(1/1/1995)  
**Crowd, RaLois L.**, 10/27/2025(5/10/1990)  
**Cuzzort, Vickie L.**, 12/15/2025(10/1/1989)  
**Damesworth, Jerry D.**, 10/19/2025(1/11/2004)  
**Daniel, Francis M.**, 12/24/2025(1/2/2002)  
**Dunn, John R.**, 11/5/2025(3/9/2002)  
**Elliott, Clyde W.**, 12/31/2025(1/1/1995)  
**Ellis, Stephen D.**, 12/4/2025(9/23/2011)  
**Engle, Russell D.**, 1/2/2026(10/17/1994)  
**Erwin, Linda D.**, 12/19/2025(10/4/1997)  
**Farris, Billy R.**, 10/23/2025(10/15/1994)  
**Featherston, Norman E.**, 1/12/2026(9/30/1989)  
**Fernandez, Blas P.**, 11/11/2025(12/24/1994)  
**Flaherty, Karen A.**, 1/22/2026(5/15/1999)  
**Fleming, Elsie L.**, 10/17/2025(9/27/1997)  
**Frizzell, Ila Fay**, 12/29/2025(9/21/2004)  
**Gaines, Steve E.**, 12/23/2025(6/29/1999)  
**Gibson, Wilbur L.**, 1/3/2026(2/2/1999)  
**Gilliam, Vernon D.**, 10/18/2025(6/7/2000)  
**Gillis, William D.**, 12/12/2025(6/1/2013)  
**Gilmer, Robert W.**, 12/31/2025(6/17/1989)  
**Glisson, Charles E.**, 12/1/2025(4/15/2006)  
**Glover, Thurman L.**, 12/24/2025(12/27/2004)  
**Goble, Brenda B.**, 1/10/2026(11/4/2006)  
**Gombert, Gerald E.**, 1/14/2026(11/29/1992)  
**Graves, Donna V.**, 12/15/2025(5/29/1993)  
**Griffin, Walter W.**, 1/9/2026(8/2/1988)  
**Grigsby, Delite**, 1/15/2026(4/5/1985)  
**Guettner, Thelma F.**, 8/13/2025(9/27/1997)  
**Gwin, Robert M.**, 10/24/2025(12/14/1991)  
**Hale, Marion L., Jr.**, 11/19/2025(2/2/2018)

**Haraway, Carolyn M.**, 12/21/2025(7/3/2004)  
**Hargett, Norman L.**, 1/11/2026(10/7/1992)  
**Harper, Sue F.**, 11/27/2025(1/3/1987)  
**Harris, Stephen C.**, 1/2/2026(2/18/2017)  
**Heavener, Mary Jane**, 10/21/2025(9/27/1997)  
**Henderson, Louise T.**, 1/6/2026(1/1/1995)  
**Henegar, Billy**, 10/29/2025(9/10/1994)  
**Hilson, D, Wayne**, 12/2/2025(1/3/2009)  
**Horner, Jennie M.**, 11/7/2025(7/14/2001)  
**Huffine, Carroll L., Jr.**, 10/30/2025(12/13/2003)  
**Hughes, Nathaniel B., Jr.**, 12/11/2025(9/18/1982)  
**Hutton, Patricia A.**, 11/21/2025(12/13/1986)  
**Jackson, Reba D.**, 11/25/2025(10/17/1994)  
**Jermakowicz, Harry E.**, 10/21/2025(10/17/1994)  
**Jones, Roy A.**, 1/2/2026(10/1/2007)  
**Kelley, Eda Prue**, 10/12/2025(1/3/2009)  
**Kellogg, Reitha F.**, 11/14/2025(8/12/1989)  
**Kerstetter, Robert L.**, 11/15/2025(2/7/2014)  
**Kidwell, Tonua H.**, 12/4/2025(7/30/1988)  
**Kilgore, James Christopher**, 1/7/2026(12/4/2021)  
**Kimsey, Charles W.**, 12/23/2025(10/1/2014)  
**Kirkpatrick, Marjorie M.**, 11/23/2025  
**Kook, Herbert E., Jr.**, 7/6/2025(11/18/1989)  
**Lawson, Sharon C.**, 12/21/2025(8/8/2015)  
**Layne, Martha L.**, 1/2/2026  
**Lee, Betty J.**, 10/25/2025  
**Lemke, Ronald O.**, 11/11/2025(2/9/1991)  
**Letner, Fletcher L.**, 11/28/2025(6/28/2000)  
**Levenson, Shirley**, 11/23/2025(3/23/1991)  
**Lewis, James D.**, 11/16/2025(6/3/2000)  
**Linville, Janice D.**, 12/16/2025(1/7/2006)  
**Lipscomb, William W.**, 11/3/2025(1/3/1987)

**Little, Joe Perry, Jr.**, 1/2/2026(8/12/1989)  
**Loney, Charles W.**, 1/7/2026(10/17/1994)  
**Long, Charlotte A.**, 11/22/2025(3/8/2003)  
**Long, Melvyn D.**, 1/18/2026(1/4/1993)  
**Long, Winford H.**, 1/13/2026(8/2/1988)  
**Loving, Willie M.**, 1/11/2026(1/3/2001)  
**Loy, Suzanne C.**, 11/20/2025(4/1/1986)  
**Lucas, Roy F.**, 12/15/2025(7/20/1996)  
**Lynn, Robert D.**, 12/19/2025(10/17/1994)  
**Machtloff, John M.**, 12/4/2025(10/5/2013)  
**MacPhee, Bruce A.**, 12/22/2025(10/4/2003)  
**Martin, Ralph**, 11/7/2025(12/14/2002)  
**Martin, Ronald B.**, 11/4/2025(10/10/2007)  
**Martinie, Mary Sue**, 12/27/2025  
**Masiulis, Kevin C.**, 10/9/2025(10/1/2017)  
**Matteson, Paul S.**, 11/18/2025(10/1/1988)  
**Mayberry, Hattie B.**, 12/29/2025(10/18/2014)  
**McClure, John C.**, 10/24/2025(3/9/2013)  
**Meacham, Jo Ann**, 12/19/2025(11/29/1997)  
**Mills, Linda R.**, 11/7/2025(5/7/2011)  
**Mitchell, Dorcas M.**, 11/7/2025  
**Mockabee, Howell E.**, 10/20/2025(3/4/2018)  
**Moore, Jerry D.**, 11/3/2025(1/10/2004)  
**Mulkey, James D.**, 1/4/2026(4/24/2012)  
**Myers, Wayne L.**, 10/24/2025(1/8/2009)  
**Narmore, William P.**, 12/11/2025(11/8/2008)  
**Ochsner, Joyce G.**, 11/22/2025(2/2/2003)  
**Odell, Charles L.**, 10/15/2025(6/24/1989)  
**Oliver, Joyce A.**, 1/17/2026(3/20/1997)  
**Ortiz, Jose J.**, 12/22/2025(4/2/2024)  
**Patterson, Jerry D.**, 12/28/2025(1/3/1999)  
**Pearson, Judith M.**, 12/20/2025(3/3/2007)  
**Pendergrass, Roy E.**, 12/25/2025(7/7/1994)

**Peoples, H. Dean**, 11/20/2025(12/4/1999)  
**Perdue, Jo Ann**, 12/13/2025(5/1/1982)  
**Petty, Donald R.**, 10/31/2025(10/15/1994)  
**Phillips, Mary Lois**, 11/8/2025(7/30/1994)  
**Pierce, Jerry D.**, 11/19/2025(7/31/1999)  
**Porter, Carl O.**, 12/31/2025(8/2/1988)  
**Porter, David Lee**, 1/16/2026(1/2/2011)  
**Porter, Lewis C., Jr.**, 1/18/2026(9/27/1997)  
**Price, Larry E.**, 12/8/2025(3/5/2007)  
**Pruitt, Mary Ann**, 1/9/2026(8/4/2007)  
**Rader, Donnie R.**, 11/22/2025(10/1/2025)  
**Raney, Linda M.**, 12/6/2025  
**Remich, John R.**, 12/31/2025(8/14/1988)  
**Riddle, Elladee W.**, 12/20/2025(7/30/1988)  
**Ridge, Ginger H.**, 12/11/2025(5/31/2025)  
**Riggins, Forest D.**, 11/12/2025(2/22/1997)  
**Rixie, Bettie M.**, 12/19/2025(1/9/1993)  
**Robinson, April H.**, 10/15/2025(1/4/2011)  
**Robinson, Franklin D.R.**, 10/27/2025(10/17/1994)  
**Rogers, Avery D.**, 1/4/2026(4/2/2007)  
**Sanders, David J.**, 11/4/2025(6/12/2014)  
**Scarlett, Shirley F.**, 11/25/2025(5/22/1993)  
**Schmitt, Bettie S.**, 11/23/2025(8/7/1993)  
**Seaton, Mark S.**, 1/15/2026(7/12/2008)  
**Sharp, Agnes C.**, 11/20/2025(8/2/1988)  
**Shea, Trudy L.**, 11/24/2025(1/3/2009)  
**Sims, Maude B.**, 1/4/2026(3/22/1992)  
**Slatton, James A.**, 11/2/2025(8/6/2005)  
**Smart, Odeen**, 12/18/2025(8/2/1988)  
**Smith, Robert T.**, 12/4/2025(8/1/1988)  
**Snyder, Roger D.**, 12/24/2025(8/16/2003)  
**South, Lenvel H.**, 1/15/2026(10/17/1994)  
**Stanfiel, Charlotte**, 12/6/2025

**Stephens, Norma M.**, 1/1/2026  
**Stockton, Bates C.**, 12/13/2025(10/17/1994)  
**Stone, Scott F.**, 12/6/2025(7/12/1996)  
**Sullivan, Gladys Ellen**, 1/1/2026(4/22/2011)  
**Taylor, Clovis O.**, 12/4/2025(10/1/1988)  
**Taylor, Thomas P.**, 10/19/2025(7/30/2014)  
**Teague, Ralph A.**, 12/30/2025(7/8/1987)  
**Thomas, Gary M.**, 12/31/2025(1/1/2001)  
**Thomas, M. Ellen**, 10/18/2025(5/7/1988)  
**Thomas, Mary L.**, 12/2/2025(2/2/1999)  
**Thompson, Billie L.**, 11/5/2025  
**Thornton, James D.**, 10/31/2025(1/21/1998)  
**Underwood, Jo Anne**, 10/19/2025(1/1/1995)  
**Unsell, Donald E.**, 11/26/2025(1/1/1993)  
**Vandercammen, Richard**, 9/29/2025(8/11/2001)  
**Wadewitz, Guenter**, 1/10/2026(8/2/1986)  
**Walker, Jack L.**, 12/29/2025(3/3/2007)  
**Wallace, Teddy J.**, 1/7/2026(7/10/2006)  
**Warren, Jo Ann Hampton**, 11/4/2025  
**Webb, Mary Ann**, 12/31/2025(7/5/2008)  
**Wheeler, Alfred R.**, 12/10/2025(10/18/2002)  
**White, Robert C.**, 10/3/2025(1/3/2009)  
**Whitson, Herbert L.**, 12/14/2025(2/22/1989)  
**Whitson, Reba J.**, 12/6/2025(5/11/2006)  
**Williams, Harry W., Jr.**, 11/1/2025(10/17/1994)  
**Williams, Noland C.**, 12/10/2025(11/22/1986)  
**Willis, Marvin L.**, 1/7/2026(3/23/2002)  
**Wimberley, Robert F.**, 1/15/2026(1/19/1998)  
**Woods, Billy C.**, 11/19/2025(5/18/1985)  
**Wright, Louis E.**, 1/9/2026(2/7/2005)  
**Wright, Mary A.**, 1/3/2026(12/28/2002)  
**Young, Larry D.**, 12/1/2025(10/6/1997)

# Upcoming March 2026 Chapter Meetings

## BROWNS FERRY

**March 10, 2026, Noon**

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

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): TBD
- David C. Matherly Jr., President  
256-777-2175/[dcmatherly@gmail.com](mailto:dcmatherly@gmail.com)

## CHATTANOOGA

**March 17, 2026, 10 a.m.**

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

- 10 a.m. — Meet N Greet, with refreshments
- 10:30 a.m. — Guest Speaker: Mark Meigs,  
TVARS Executive Secretary

Denny Forster, President  
423-802-6570/[dmforster1@gmail.com](mailto:dmforster1@gmail.com)

## CLEVELAND

**March 13, 2026, 11 a.m.**

*Garden Plaza of Cleveland,  
3500 Keith Street, NW*

- Program: Appreciation lunch for TVARA retirees  
from Cleveland area

Michael Baines, President  
423-400-0706/[mbaines864@aol.com](mailto:mbaines864@aol.com)

## GALLATIN

Please contact Blue Monday if you are interested  
in attending Chapter Meetings or volunteering for  
4-H projects.

James R. "Blue" Monday, President  
615-481-8469/[oemorgan@comcast.net](mailto:oemorgan@comcast.net)

## HUNTSVILLE

**March 12, 2026, 10 a.m.**

*TVA Shields Office Building,  
370 Shields Road*

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): TBD
- Daniel A. Simmons, President  
256-509-9781/[dasimmon@bellsouth.net](mailto:dasimmon@bellsouth.net)

## JACKSON

**March 11, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**

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

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): TBD
- Alan Campbell, President  
731-988-8814/[abcjax@eplus.net](mailto:abcjax@eplus.net)

## JOHNSONVILLE/CUMBERLAND

**March 12, 2026, 10 a.m.**

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

- 10 a.m. Socializing
- 11 a.m. Meeting
- Program: TVARA Board Meeting information,  
pension updates, TVA's future with new Board  
in place
- Door prizes and cash drawing

Remember to bring nonperishable food for the  
local food bank.

Mickey Blackburn, President  
931-209-1352/[mwblackb56@gmail.com](mailto:mwblackb56@gmail.com)

## KNOXVILLE

**March 5, 2026, 10 a.m.**

*Fellowship Church, 8000 Middlebrook Pike*

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): Travel agency  
representative, TVARS update, TVA Community  
Relations representative

Leslie Bazzoon, President  
865-406-3605/[lesliebazzoon@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliebazzoon@yahoo.com)

## MEMPHIS

**March 17, 2026, 11 a.m.**

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

- Program: Fill Vacant Chapter Positions
- Jeffrey M. H. Allen, President  
901-484-4282/[jeffreymhallen1@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreymhallen1@gmail.com)

## MISSISSIPPI

**March 10, 2026, 10 a.m.**

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

- Program/Guest Speakers: "Financial Planning,"  
financial advisors Adam McCollum and Edward  
Jones

Judy J. Bright, President  
662-791-9779/[judy.bright2@icloud.com](mailto:judy.bright2@icloud.com)

## MUSCLE SHOALS

**March 11, 2026, 10 a.m.**

*TVA Community Credit Union,  
Wilson Dam Road*

- Guest Speaker: Carley Ashe, Garden Program  
Coordinator, Community Action Agency

Robert F. Atwell, President  
256-710-5826/[rfatwell@hotmail.com](mailto:rfatwell@hotmail.com)

## Getting in touch with TVARA

Contact information for TVA Retirees Association:

### TVARA 865-632-3318

**Vickie Ellis, TVARA President**  
[tvarapresident@gmail.com](mailto:tvarapresident@gmail.com)/865-805-1512

**Jo Anne Lavender,  
TVARA Immediate Past President**  
[jlavender@tds.net](mailto:jlavender@tds.net)/865-300-8272

**Les Bays, TVARA Vice President**  
[Lpbays1@yahoo.com](mailto:Lpbays1@yahoo.com)/423-782-8458

**Kathryn Davis, TVARA Secretary**  
[krdavis3@yahoo.com](mailto:krdavis3@yahoo.com)/615-361-9954

**Lisa Overly, TVARA Treasurer**  
[lloverly@hotmail.com](mailto:lloverly@hotmail.com)/865-567-7911

**Suzan Bowman,  
TVARA Communications & Marketing**  
[sebowman@tva.gov](mailto:sebowman@tva.gov)/865-632-6098

**Richard T. Wilson Jr.,  
TVARA Membership Program Manager**  
[rtwilson@tva.gov](mailto:rtwilson@tva.gov)/865-632-8542

**Penny Walker, TVARA Volunteer Coordinator**  
[pennywalker06@comcast.net](mailto:pennywalker06@comcast.net)/423-413-7137

Please visit the TVARA website at [mytvara.org](http://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

**March 12, 2026, 10:30 a.m.**

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

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): TBD
- Leanne Whitehead, President  
931-446-0664/[klwhite220@gmail.com](mailto:klwhite220@gmail.com)

## NORTHEAST ALABAMA

**March 10, 2026, 11 a.m.**

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

- No guest speaker is scheduled
- Larry A. Hancock, President  
256-599-1383/[lah35772@gmail.com](mailto:lah35772@gmail.com)

## PADUCAH AREA

**March 17, 2026, 10 a.m.**

*Pizza Inn, 1001 Joe Clifton Drive, Paducah, Ky.*

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): TBD
- Phyllis J. Robertson, President  
270-816-1166/[pjrobertson1953@gmail.com](mailto:pjrobertson1953@gmail.com)

## PARADISE

**March 10, 2026, 10:30 a.m.**

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

- Program/Guest Speaker(s): TBD
- Vernon R. Perry, President  
270-543-4707/[vernonrperry25@gmail.com](mailto:vernonrperry25@gmail.com)  
or [wputnam@bellsouth.net](mailto:wputnam@bellsouth.net)

## UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

**March 26, 2026, 11 a.m.**

*Golden Corral, 2905 W. Andrew Johnson Highway,  
Morristown, Tenn.*

- Program: Retirement System update
  - Door prizes and Cash Drawing
- Let the restaurant cashier know you are with the  
TVA retirees group as you pay for your meal. Please  
bring small bills and plan to leave a tip on the table.
- Les P. Bays, President  
423-782-8458/[Lpbays1@yahoo.com](mailto:Lpbays1@yahoo.com)

## WATTS BAR AREA

**March 25, 2026, 4 p.m.**

*Nick's Lakeside Grill (Wednesday Wings Night),  
2109 New Lake Road, Spring City, Tenn.*

- Program/Speaker: Ed Couch, "How and Where  
to Travel to the Philippines for the Summer of  
2026 — Live the Island Life"

Please text or email Ed Couch if you plan to attend.

J. Ed Couch, President  
423-551-1226/[jecttu@gmail.com](mailto:jecttu@gmail.com)

## WESTERN AREA

**March 18, 2026, 10:30 a.m.**

*Kenlake State Resort Park, Garden Room,  
542 Kenlake Road, Hardin, Ky.*

- Program/Guest Speaker: Friends of Land  
Between The Lakes Association update, Elaine  
Jackson, LBLA Executive Director
  - Door Prize: Free lunch in Kenlake Dining Room
- K. Renee Turnbow, President  
270-205-5277/[krturnbow@gmail.com](mailto:krturnbow@gmail.com)

## More Folks Finding PayPal User-Friendly

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

More and more people are paying their TVA Retirees Association membership dues through PayPal. Statistically, as of Jan. 27, a total of 562 retirees were paying their dues that way.

As previously stated, the main reason may be that PayPal has proven to be very user-friendly in its convenience. It only takes a few minutes, and TVARA will receive your payment in its PayPal Account immediately. There are no checks, stamps, weather delays, or trips to the post office, and nothing getting lost or delayed by the postal service. I also will email you a Payment Confirmation upon receipt of your payment, again with no delays.

If you pay by PayPal, the annual membership dues are \$26 for one year, \$52 for two years, \$78 for three years, and so on.

Just enter [paypal.com/paypalme/TVARADues](https://paypal.com/paypalme/TVARADues) in your browser on your PC or phone and follow the PayPal instructions. Just as before, you still can pay your dues by check, money order, or Online Bill Pay, if you choose.

However, those currently paying their dues by Online Bill Pay might definitely consider using PayPal instead. Feel free to email me at [rtwilson@tva.gov](mailto:rtwilson@tva.gov) or call me at 865-632-8542 if you have questions.

I'd be delighted to welcome you to PayPal.

## Tribute to Reba Whitson

By **DeWITT BURLESON**, Past President, TVA Retirees Association

Upon receiving this quarterly newsletter, retirees often turn first to the In Memoriam page to determine if a former co-worker or friend may be listed. In this issue, an individual dear to those in TVARA leadership positions is included.

Reba Whitson, who served as the TVARA Executive Assistant from 2007 to 2023, passed away on Dec. 6.

Before her time with TVARA, Reba had 23 years of service with TVA.

The TVARA staff is a small core group



Reba Whitson

whose mission is to serve retirees. Reba was an anchor for TVARA through officer transitions and a resource to chapter presidents throughout her tenure.

She was most diligent in assisting retirees who were seeking answers or assistance. Reba spoke to many retirees over the telephone, and a

number have asked about her since she retired, because her kindness left an indelible mark on their lives.

We were fortunate to have her as a staff member and send our condolences to her family.