

HAPPY *New Year*

I know that for most people, January 1st is the day to say, "Happy New Year." But for me, the new year always began with the start of a new school year. For forty-six years, I eagerly awaited the new school year. The start of the new school year meant that I met new colleagues and students, got to wear new clothes, and most importantly, had an opportunity to do things better and try new methods and techniques.

So, August 2022 began a new year for APSURA as well. We are looking forward to a year with the lessened threat of COVID. It can be a year that we meet in person and have time to meet old and new friends. It can be a year when we have exciting Connections meetings that meet the interest level of all our members. Hopefully, it will be a year where we can socialize as we did before COVID. In order to facilitate more social activities, we have established a social committee. Members of the committee are Joe Filippio, Aleeta Christian, Stuart Bonnington, Alene Phy-Olsen, and Bonnie Hodge. Reach out to them with your ideas and interest.

Twenty-two of our members started the new year by attending the APSU opening day picnic. We enjoyed seeing old friends and colleagues and interacting with fellow APSURA members.

The 2022-2023 Board began this new year with our first Board meeting on August 3rd. We welcomed the new Board members, Theresa Everett and Dewey

Browder. We welcomed previous Board members: Alvin Hughes, Brad Kirtley, Floyd Christian, Sharon Silva, Joe Filippio, Angie Judish, Cheryl Holt, Allene Phy-Olsen, Barbara Wilbur, Carl Stedman, and Nancy Smithfield. Hannah Allen, APSU's Benefits and Retirement Coordinator, also joined us. Our goal is to serve you. Contact any of us with your concerns and suggestions. Working together, we can make 2022-2023 the best year yet.

Happy New Year
Carlette Hardin
2022-2023 APSURA President

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7	APSURA Board Meeting
September 27	Connection Meeting: 4:00 pm David Kanervo – The Importance of the Mid-term Elections
October 5	APSURA Board Meeting
October 25	Connections Meeting: 4:00 pm Phil Kemmerly – Secrets of Sevier Station This meeting is tentative based on completed research by Dr. Kemmerly.
November 2	APSURA Board Meeting
December 6	Connections Meeting – 4:00 pm Carlette Hardin – The 1950 Census is Here!! What stories will it tell?
December 7	APSURA Board Meeting

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The 2022 Straight Talk About Retirement Meeting

By Hannah Allen

APSU Benefits and Retirement Coordinator

The Office of Human Resources at Austin Peay State University (APSU) partnered with the APSU Retirees Association (APSURA) to host the annual Straight Talk About Retirement (STAR) meeting on March 17, 2022, open to all faculty and staff. APSURA president Floyd Christian and member Brad Kirtley opened the STAR meeting and shared their experiences with the retirement process and post-retirement living.

This author, APSU's Benefits and Retirement Services Coordinator, shared the general steps for retirement at APSU:

Step 1 - Submit an intent to retire to the supervisor/department head as soon as a date has been determined.

Step 2 - Contact retirement plan advisors for the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) or the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) to set up monthly distributions from the appropriate plan.

Step 3 - Enroll in Medicare and/or complete the application to continue insurance at retirement if eligible.

Step 4 - Complete the clearance process from APSU on the last day of work.

Employees eligible for Social Security can apply directly from the Social Security Administration website, <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/>, or by calling the local Clarksville office: (877)531-4695.

Guest speaker Judy Carmen from the State of Tennessee Benefits Administration office shared information on continuing insurance after retirement. State insurance coverage after retirement, including the Medicare-supplemental Tennessee Plan, is available to

(a) employees (including spouses and dependents under 26 years of age) who were hired before July 1, 2015, and who have either ten years of creditable service and at least three years of continuous insurance coverage in the plan immediately before retirement or

(b) twenty years of creditable service and at least one year of continuous insurance coverage in the plan immediately before retirement.

Eligible employees must apply to continue coverage at retirement to the APSU's Benefits and Retirement Services Coordinator within one full calendar month of the end of active insurance coverage. The State Benefits Administration office can be contacted by calling 800-253-9981 and selecting option 2 to speak with a retirement analyst or by emailing Retirement.insurance@tn.gov.

VOYA Financial Consultant Michael Biggs discussed the ORP, which is a defined contribution plan offered through three providers at the time of the meeting: VOYA, TIAA-CREF, and/or AIG-VALIC. Retiring employees who contribute to the ORP need to contact the assigned financial consultant for the appropriate plan providers to set up distributions from these plans.

APSU Retirement Plan Advisor, Ben Straley, shared information on the state's retirement program, RetireReadyTN, which consists of the defined benefit plan provided by TCRS and deferred compensation plans offered by Empower Retirement. Retiring employees in TCRS should complete a Retirement Readiness Review found at www.RetireReadyTN.gov, request a distribution estimate 6-12 months in advance, and submit a retirement application in the TCRS self-service portal 3 months before the retirement date. Retirees call the RetireReadyTN call center, (800)922-7772, for more information on TCRS and to set up distributions from 401(k) and 457(b) accounts.

Note: Hannah Allen is available for additional questions or appointments by calling 931-221-7181 or emailing allenh@apsu.edu. More information on retirement planning can be found at <https://www.apsu.edu/human-resources/retirement/index>.



A dream came true for APSU retirees, Floyd and Aleeta Christian, when they had the opportunity to hear their son, Daniel, sing at Carnegie Hall on July 10th. Daniel is well known in the Clarksville community as he started singing at Madison Street Methodist Church as a boy. He continued singing throughout his college years at Austin Peay State University, and he continues to serve as the musical director for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clarksville.



The event at Carnegie Hall was entitled, Jubilate: An Evening with Choral Masters.” It featured 200 voices from across the country and a complete orchestra. Daniel performed solo songs from “The Weaver” with soprano Victoria Yizzrry and composer Ken Medema. Daniel’s sister, Lea Scheuren, said “Watching him sing on that stage, I could remember seeing him perform at APSU. Here he is, his voice filling the famous Carnegie Hall.” For Daniel, Lea, and their parents, Floyd and Aleeta Christian, July 10, 2022 will be a night to remember.



The *Gift* that Keeps on *Giving*

by Carlette Hardin



Carlette Hardin's first library

educator, I would want to continue contributing to the education of my community.

The library is registered with the national Little Free Library organization (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>). The organization guides owners who are known as stewards. Stewards agree to keep the library stocked with appropriate reading material and maintain the little house so that it is safe and attractive. As a steward, I am constantly updating books and looking for books that meet the needs of my community.

I have become known as the “book lady” in our neighborhood and often find boxes of books on my front porch. I also have children knock on my door and request a particular

When I retired as the Dean of the College of Education at Austin Peay State University, the faculty gave me a Little Free Library as a retirement gift. They knew that after forty-six years as an

book or genre. Not long ago, a little girl knocked on the door and asked for a dinosaur book for her brother. When I asked why her brother hadn't come for the



Neighbor, Camille Crouse, puts the first book in the library her father built.

book, she said, “Oh, he is hiding in the park. He's afraid of old people.” And yes, I still gave her a dinosaur book.

When I received the library, I requested permission from our homeowners' association to place the library in our neighborhood park.

A sidewalk and playground made the park a perfect place. We decided a spot beside a tree and bench would provide shade and a place for children and adults to sit and read. The location had the additional advantage that I can see the library from my window and enjoy watching my neighbors take and return books. It also allows for easy access to the library when selections become low. I find that I must constantly replenish the books for children aged one to four.



A park bench is the perfect to rest and read.





Ellen Taylor's libraries

The first library remained in that spot for four years. The neighborhood helps keep the library filled with books for all ages. Each day, children and their parents visited the library. At Christmas, a Santa mailbox was added so letters to Santa could be sent from the neighborhood children. Letters from Santa (aka Carlette Hardin) are returned in a few days. During the pandemic, the library became a place to share puzzles, games, and homeschool materials.



Barbara Wilbur's two libraries

The library has been well-loved and has had to be repaired many times. The hinges on the door were replaced numerous times. The lock was replaced with a more child-friendly version. The library's roof was patched to prevent rain from ruining the books.

However, by the end of four years, the library was in critical need of care or replacement. Fortunately, my neighbor, Cameron Crouse, offered to build a replacement library. He suggested a bigger model that could hold more books for the neighborhood to enjoy.

As the project unfolded, solar lights were added so the library could be enjoyed at night. A stronger post was created to hold the heavier library. The final touch was a weathervane for the top. It was decorated with a little girl reading a book.

In June, we had the grand opening of our new library. Appropriately, the first book was placed in the library by Cameron's daughter, Camille. Retiree, Anne Wall, completed the library by creating steppingstones leading to the library with the words, "Read, Learn, and Share." One of the features of the Little Free Library website is that it provides a map of all the registered libraries around the world. A look at the Clarksville map shows that three other APSU retirees also have little libraries. The oldest belongs to Ellen Taylor who has two little free libraries. Built by her husband, David, one library is designated for adults and the other is for children.

Other retirees who have Little Free Libraries are Linda Davis and Barbara Wilbur. Like Ellen Taylor, Barbara provides separate libraries for children and adults.



Linda Davis's Little Free Library

The libraries have been the gift that keeps on giving as it not only brings joy to our community but also to those of us who serve as stewards.

Annual Meeting and Picnic



On May 13th, 47 APSURA members met at Rotary Park for the annual APSURA meeting and picnic. This was the first time in two years that members had been together since the Covid pandemic, and it was obvious that members were eager to see each other.

Dr. Floyd Christian called the group together and after brief remarks, members enjoyed a picnic of barbeque, baked beans, and coleslaw. Dessert was delicious cookies and brownies.

Dr. Christian introduced special guests and gave certificates to outgoing board members, David Kanervo and Jim Thompson. The first order of business was a report from the Nominating Committee. Dr. Joe Filippo provided the following slate of officers:

President: Carlette Hardin
Vice President: Phil Kemmerly
Secretary: Theresa Everett
Parliamentarian: Phil Kemmerly
Director at Large: Dewey Browder
Directors continuing for a three-year term:
Brad Kirtley, Alvin Hughes

Jeannie Randall moved that the nominees be approved and David Kanervo seconded the motion. The vote for the slate of officers was unanimous.

Dr. Christian turned the meeting over to Dr. Carlette Hardin. Dr. Hardin provided an overview of the major decisions by the Board during the past year. Sharon Silva provided a summary of the budget with a balance of \$7,705.23 in the budget. An additional \$32,238.36 is in the APSURA scholarship fund.

2021-2022/2022-2023 Scholarship Recipient

Blessing Jator (*pictured with Dr. Floyd Christian*) is the 2021-2022/2022-2023 recipient of the APSURA Scholarship. Blessing is the daughter of Samuel (Mathematics) and Eleanor (Allied Science) Jator. Blessing is a nursing major.



Summary of March 29th CONNECTIONS Presentation

Dead Animals and Starving Men: Five-week Siege of Chattanooga

September 25 – October 30, 1863

Phil Kemmerly

The PowerPoint presentation focused on a little-known tragedy known to history as the siege of Chattanooga. The siege was caused by a self-inflicted catastrophic blunder by Maj. General William Starke Rosecrans, commander of the Union Army of the Cumberland following his devastating loss to General Braxton Bragg, commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga in mid-September 1863. The Union army endured incredible suffering during the five-week siege resulting in the starvation of more than 14,000 animals and near starvation of 53,000 Union troops. Many of the men during that thirty-five-day siege lost 30-40 pounds and suffered from chronic diarrhea, dysentery, scurvy, pellagra, and night blindness. Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant relieved Rosecrans on October 19th and appointed Maj. General George H. Thomas as the new commander of the Army of the Cumberland.



This beautiful Tennessee River Gorge was the site of a catastrophe in 1863.

The siege received little notice because it occurred between the debacle at Chickamauga and the Federal victory at Chattanooga in November. The Lincoln Administration viewed the siege as a national embarrassment and suppressed press coverage. What is overlooked is the chaos generated in trying to prevent men and animals alike from starving. Detailed analysis of the relationships between wagon-based logistical support, weather, terrain, and road conditions indicated the Army of the Cumberland came within days of surrendering in the name of humanity to Bragg's army. The political and military consequences of Federal capitulation at Chattanooga, at a pivotal moment in the West, can only be imagined.

Interested readers can find the article in the Tennessee Historical Quarterly (Vol. 77, no.1 (Spring 2018, pp. 2-35) under the full title "Dead Animals, Starving Men, and Treacherous Anderson Road: 1863 siege of Chattanooga." The article can be found on the web under JSTOR.

OFFICERS

Carlette Hardin, President

Phil Kemmerly, Vice President

Theresa Everett, Secretary

Sharon Silva, Treasurer

Floyd Christian Past President

Nancy Smithfield, Membership Director

Hannah Allen, University Representative

DIRECTORS

Joe Filippo

Cheryl Holt

Cicero Alvin Hughes

Brad Kirtley

Allene Phy-Olsen

Barbara Wilbur

Dewey Browder

Angie Judish

Carl Stedman

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Nancy Smithfield
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ADDRESS

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STAY IN TOUCH

APSURA's website has been revised and is available to provide valuable information for members. Included is information about the APSURA scholarship and a link to previous newsletters and minutes. A special section called "In Memoriam" is dedicated to staff and faculty who have passed away. Check out the website at: <https://www.apsu.edu/retirees-association/index.php>.

APSURA also has a Facebook group. To join, contact Carlette Hardin.

APSURA MEMBERS REGISTRATION FORM

☐ New member ☐ Renewing member ☐ Retired faculty or staff ☐ Associate member

Check both above-right boxes if your spouse or partner is joining or renewing as an associate member.

Dr __. Mr. __ Ms. __ Mrs. __: Date: _____

Name of member: _____

Name of spouse/partner: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip Code

Telephones: _____ E-mail addresses: _____

Former department: _____ Years of service: _____ Year you retired _____

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved: ☐ Group travel; ☐ Athletic events;

☐ Cultural events; ☐ Social events; ☐ Scholarship activities; ☐ Seminars; ☐ Community Work;

☐ Other : _____

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association

Make checks payable to APSURA and mail form and check to

Sharon Silva, 325 Kimbrough Rd., Clarksville, TN 37043

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Associate Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
5-year Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Lifetime Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____			