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*Photo: Montgomery County Mayor Jim Durrett*

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## Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



### APSURA Spring Luncheon welcomes County Mayor Jim Durrett

**O**n April 12 APSURA was happy to welcome County Mayor Jim Durrett as guest speaker for our annual Spring Luncheon. Following an hour or so of catching up with old friends and dining on chicken salad and the delicious crab cakes at The Looking Glass Restaurant, we heard Durrett present a detailed appraisal of the current state of county affairs and some wishes and predictions for the future.

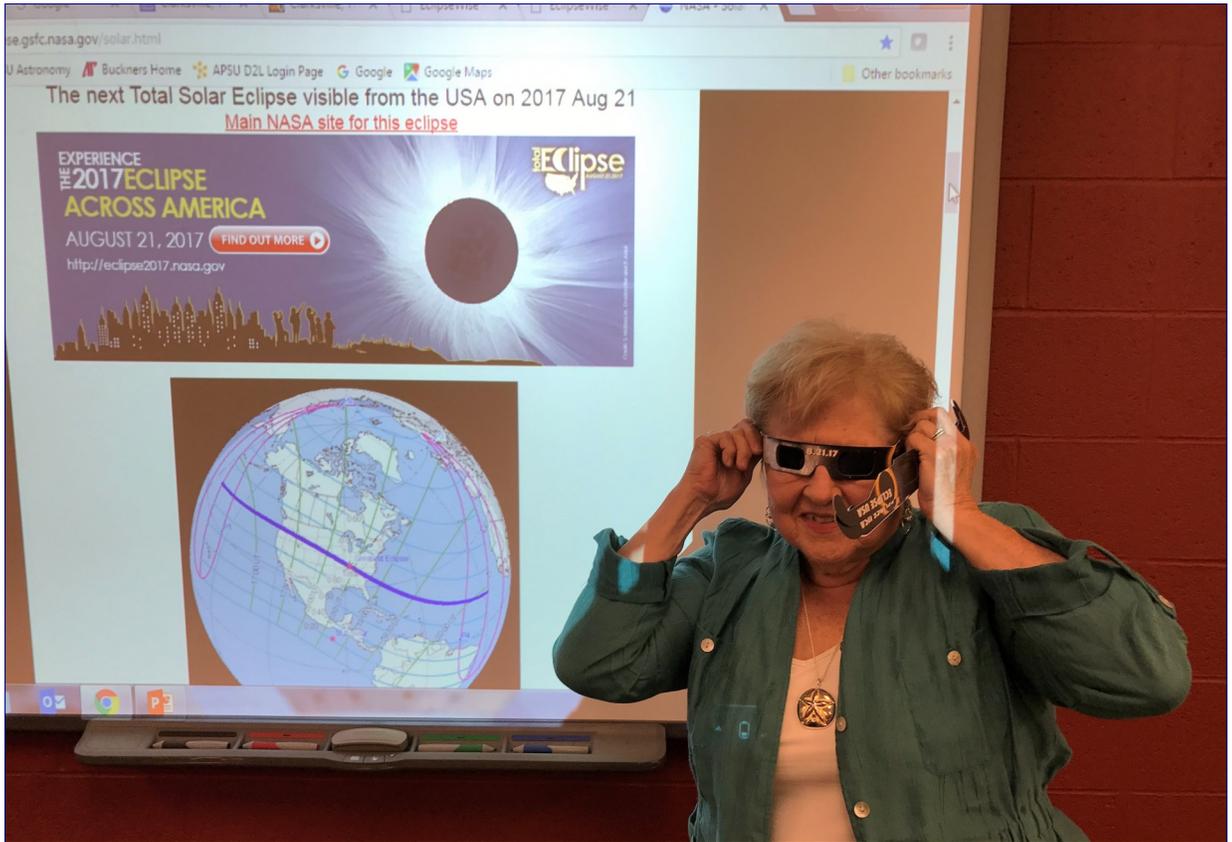
His basic take on the county was that things were coming along well, both because of and in spite of a breathtaking rate of growth and expansion in all areas of county services. He shared the latest tentative plans for a new events center, now along the lines of a combined effort of the county, the Predators, and APSU. He talked of the new LG operation and other prospects for growth not quite so far along, and the need for expanded fire, police and other services, as well as infrastructure improvements, that rapid growth is bringing.



One of Durrett's main emphases was the need for a metro government to eliminate many duplications implicit in having separate city and county governments. He described the problem of city fire fighters being unable to fight a house fire just across the city boundary and volunteer fire fighters having to respond at a slower pace and therefore not providing the same assistance that the city could have provided. He offered the school system as an example of ways governmental integration could improve management and save resources.

We APSURANS enjoyed both Durrett's presentation and having the opportunity to get to know him more personally. We appreciate his taking the time to meet with us, and the interest he showed both in our organization and in the individual members.

**APSURA**  
**Treasurer**  
**Nancy Irby**  
*models protective eclipse eyewear*



**Clarksville’s Date with Destiny**

**Joe Filippo**

If you think a blue moon is momentous, hold on to your extraterrestrial hat. The Queen City is in the path of an approaching great astronomical thrill ride--a total solar eclipse.

APSURA’S popular Connections series, in its final event of this school year, had the good fortune on April 18 to host Dr. Spencer Buckner to enlighten attendees on the total solar eclipse coming our way on Aug. 21. Dr. Buckner, an APSU professor of physics and astronomy, began by reminding us that a total solar eclipse occurs when the sun is completely blocked by the moon. He explained that the alignment of the moon and sun has to be on an exact “line of nodes” in order to produce an eclipse. The moon’s shadow is not large enough to cover the entire planet; the eclipse may therefore be partial, annular or total, depending in part on the moon’s distance from the earth.



**Allene Phy-Olsen**  
*poses a question to Spencer Buckner*

Of special significance to us Clarksvillians was the point that no one except people located on the exact and very narrow path of the eclipse across the U. S. will see the eclipse in its totality. The most recent total solar eclipse in the Clarksville area occurred in 1478, and the next one will not arrive until 2772. Although the entire eclipse lasts around three hours, the city will only experience about two minutes and eighteen seconds of totality, beginning at approximately 1:25 p.m.

Buckner emphasized the absolute requirement that viewers protect their eyes during the eclipse to prevent injury. It is particularly important, he says, to wear protective ISO-approved eyewear designed for viewing an eclipse through all of its partial phases—including the penultimate phase when the famous “diamond ring” effect appears. He said that only when the eclipse is at utter and complete totality, and only then, may one look at the sun without protective eyewear. Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are nowhere near being dark enough.



During totality, however, Buckner tells us to remove our glasses and look around as night surrounds us, to look at the sun's corona—no brighter than a full moon--and to marvel for ourselves at the stunningly strange event that we will probably never again have the opportunity to witness. He advises us not to fiddle with cameras and such, but just to watch night magically appear and disappear.

Until August 21 Clarksville will be bustling to prepare itself for the big event. Scientists of all kinds, especially astronomers, will descend upon the city like locusts. All motels and hotels for miles around are already

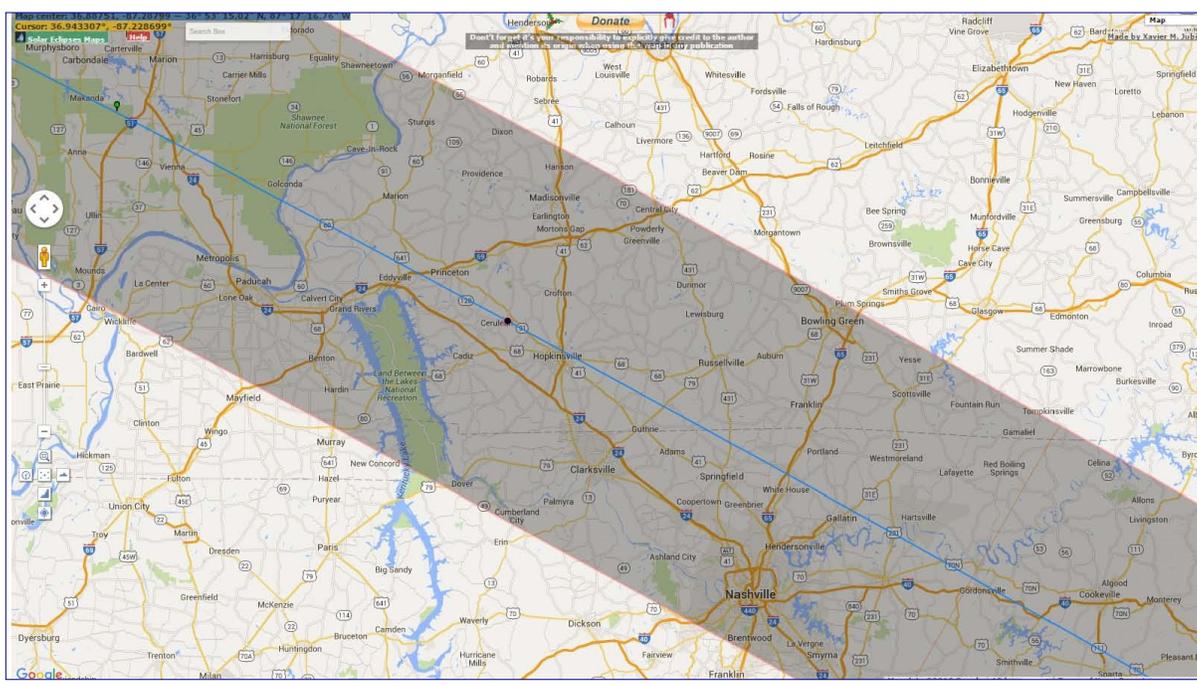
booked—most at suitably astronomical prices. The Huntsville Space and Rocket Center will make its first-ever field trip to Clarksville, and NASA television is scheduled to be in the city for a live feed.

The community can expect a host of “solar Peayclipse” activities as well. Buckner and other eclipse enthusiasts will host and attend several informational events being planned for the public. Visitors and community members can avail themselves of a key opportunity on the evening before the eclipse when Dr. Rhea Seddon, U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame inductee and author of *Go for Orbit*, is scheduled to be in Clarksville. On August 21 APSU will offer several viewing packages to the public. In addition to protective eyewear, some packages will provide food, water or inclusion in activities of the day.

As the event draws nearer, online enthusiasts may want to access [www.apsu.edu/eclipse](http://www.apsu.edu/eclipse) to become informed of additional opportunities when they arise. The planning continues as Dr. Buckner and associates keep the interests of the community in mind.



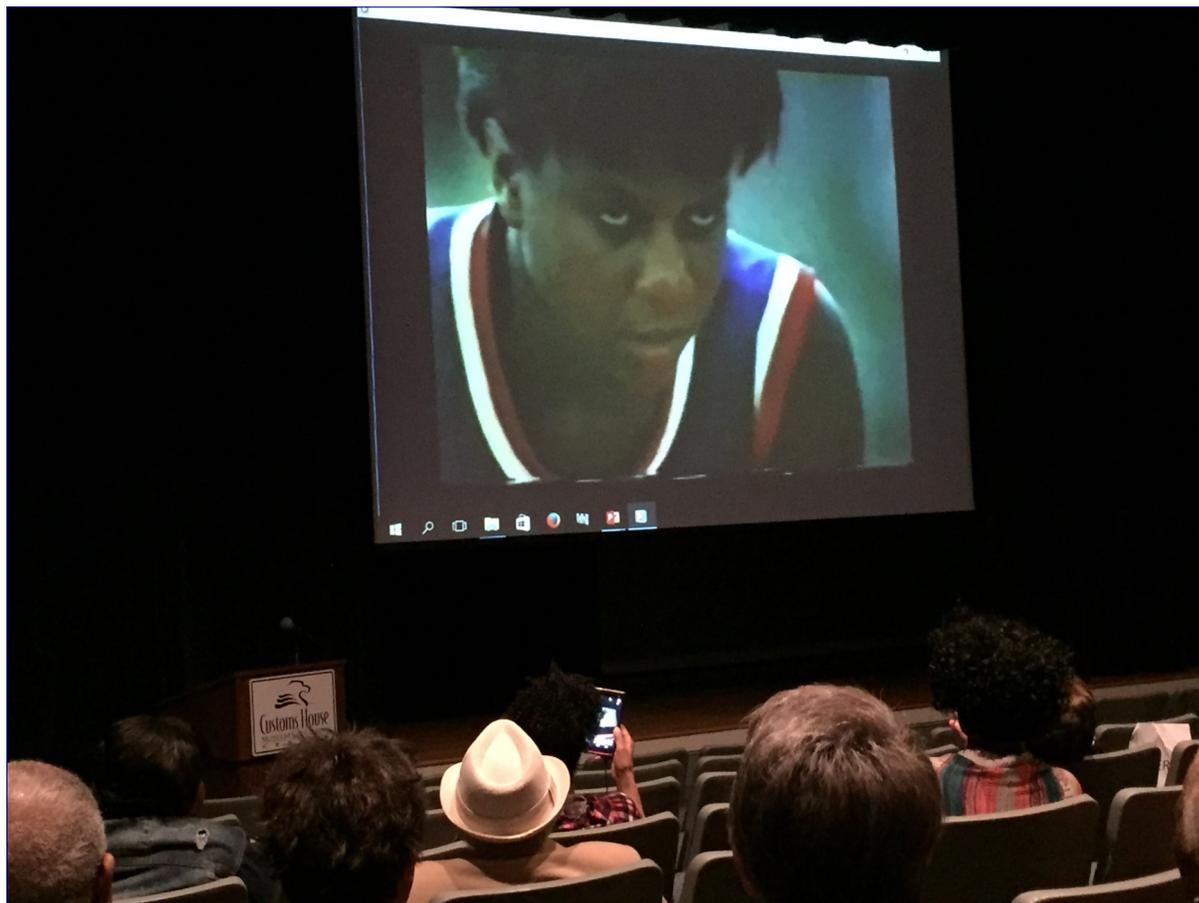
*Buckner with many varieties of protective eyewear, all ISO approved, available for watching the eclipse*



*Path of totality on Aug. 21, beginning about 1:20 p.m. Maximum duration will along central blue line, about 2 1/2 minutes.*

*A determined Wilma Rudolph in the blocks for her historic 100-meter dash for Olympic gold, Sept. 7, 1960.*

*Video captures courtesy Yvonne Prather, "Woman Behind the Gold: Wilma Glodean Rudolph"*



### Celebrating "The Fastest Woman on Earth"

**Floyd Christian**

**O**n the last Tuesday evening of February, the 28<sup>th</sup>, when I began our monthly APSURA Connections event by carefully enunciating the name "Wilma . . . Glodean . . . Rudolph," the crowd gathered in the Customs House Museum reacted with thunderous applause. Rudolph's family and friends, among 80 attendees, quickly let me know that they knew quite well exactly who I was talking about: their girl, their hero, Wilma "Skeeter" Rudolph, once celebrated around the world as "The Fastest Woman on Earth."

*Rudolph at presentation of the National Sports Award by President Clinton in 1993*



We were once again remembering Rudolph's amazing odyssey from being a sickly young child in Clarksville, barely surviving polio, to winning three Olympic gold medals in track and field in the Rome Olympic Games of 1960—the first woman ever to accomplish such a feat. Rudolph's amazing win was instantly celebrated nationally and worldwide, especially in Europe.

In preparation for our Connections event, educator Joseph Roberts, who knew both Rudolph and her times, invited me to his home and showed me hundreds of pictures from across the years. These included photos of Rudolph visiting with President Kennedy in 1961, President Carter in 1979, and with President Clinton as he presented her the National Sports Award in 1993. In introducing Ru-

dolph Clinton had said, "She broke barriers for thousands of women competitors and paved the way for those who have followed in her footsteps. Wilma Rudolph, you are a great one." Roberts shared many of his photos with us for the presentation.

Roberts said Rudolph had insisted that her fame be celebrated by the entire Clarksville community at the same event, that she would not tolerate separate events to be held for white and black supporters. Her famous coach, Ed Temple of TSU, using the analogy of a piano keyboard, said it would take the white keys and the black keys working together to make the kind of music Rudolph insisted upon. Clarksville responded with a wholly integrated celebratory dinner upon her return home in 1960, held at the armory on the APSU campus. Rudolph continued to advocate for integration and for young athletes across the country, participating in Clarksville's restaurant integration in 1963.



The highlight of our Connections event was the appearance and remarks of Wilma's daughter Yolanda and her close friend Maxine Caldwell, both featured in Dr. Yvonne Prather's documentary film "Woman Behind the Gold," shown at the event. Many attendees remarked that Yolanda looked and sounded much like Wilma herself, lithe and slender with a warm and outgoing personality.

My participation in this project was a privilege for me, a personal dream come true. As I jogged around the track at APSU past Burt school over a number of years, I would often think of Wilma Rudolph, and sometimes tell other joggers the story, especially younger members of the APSU track teams who might never have heard of Wilma Rudolph's accomplishments in detail. I think it is very important that this and other stories of adversity overcome be told and retold during these particularly difficult days.

Daniel Christian closed our time together by asking us to stand and "lift every voice," and to remember that "deep in our hearts, we do believe. We are not afraid today."

*President Clinton presenting Rudolph the National Sports Award, 1993*

## A visit to Cuba, a country "frozen in time"?

**Jim Clemmer**

**O**n March 28 a large Connections audience heard and saw a graphic account of Cuba, a country supposedly "frozen in time" but on the brink of explosive change. Well-known Clarksville educators Leah Foote and Anne Medlock condensed a whirl-wind journey of exploration, interviews and photographs in Cuba last November into a detailed one-hour immersion into the life of a people in

some ways stuck in the mid-1900s yet making striking and admirable use of their imaginations and ingenuity to produce art, music, medicine, and even modes of transportation that put a lush tropical environment and a mix of ancient and modern technologies to good use.

The most striking aspects of the presentation were the many surprise discoveries Foote and Medlock had made as they followed what was supposed to be an itinerary totally vetted and prescribed by the Cuban government. They were probably not supposed to notice, for example, that the official government stores were empty of goods, services, and customers, while open markets, art galleries and community centers were thronged with people. They were probably not to see that efficient public transportation was almost non-existent, with no visible trains or metros and only sketchy bus service, while they did see that the people had continued to travel quite easily and cheaply, and apparently fairly safely, by old-fashioned hitchhiking, or by taking a taxi if they could afford it.

And they learned that most of those taxis, beautiful rolling conveyances that look so much like carefully-preserved 50s-era American cars, are actually polished Chevrolet and Ford shells now powered and held together by Russian and Chinese engines, running gear and bolts. There are 60,000 of these in Havana, and 175,000 in all of Cuba, nearly all used as taxis.



Leah Foote and Anne Medlock

Leah Foote,  
“Man with  
Cigar”

Other surprise discoveries: Among the best educated Cubans, in addition to some wonderful doctors and teachers, are the workers in the cigar factories—because by tradition they are read great works of classical literature as they roll cigars. The most revered Cuban hero is not Fidel Castro, as we might think, but Che Guevara, the subject of many statues and plaques. One surprise that probably was on the Cuban government’s must-see list was the Bay of Pigs, famous to us as the site of the CIA’s invasion debacle in 1961. Surprisingly, the beautiful Bay of Pigs is now among the main tourist destinations of Cuba.

Of all the experiences Foote and Medlock brought back from Cuba, it was clear that their close contacts with individual Cubans were going to be the most enduring. Their account of each day included references to some special guide, a splendid cook, a brilliant artist, or even a typical friendly and elderly Cuban with a dog encountered on the famous Havana seawall, the Malecon.



Even when there was no translator to facilitate verbal communication, there was lively and memorable interaction at every turn. Cuba had proved to be not quite so frozen after all.

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### Annual general Members Meeting June 7, Emerald Hill, 3 p.m.

Our annual general Members Meeting and election of officers and directors for next year will be held on Wednesday, June 7, at 3 p.m., at Emerald Hill. You will recall that this is the only business meeting of the membership we call each year, as most of our “business” per se is managed by the Board of Directors at our monthly meetings. On June 7, the Board will meet at 2 p.m., and finish at 3 p.m. to welcome those of you who can come to the general meeting. We will be happy to see you and tell you more about our terrific year with the Connections series and other things. We will also offer you some punch and cookies, or something equally light. You will remember that parking and access at Emerald Hill are very easy—always a plus for attendance by us old folks!

The Board appointed a Nominating Committee, as prescribed by our bylaws, to study the makeup of the Board and develop a slate of nominees for those officer and board positions up for election this year. The Committee determined that all four positions as officer were up for a vote, and that one position on the Board would be vacant. The Committee decided, further, to add two new directors to the board to expand a bit the base of ideas and perspectives that guide the work of APSURA.

The Committee determined that the following Directors on the Board were within continuing terms and therefore would continue in office for 2017-2018: Joe Filippo, Director-at-large; George Mabry, Director-at-large; Phil Kemmerly, Parliamentarian; Nancy Smithfield, Membership Director; Jim Clemmer, Publicity Director; Aleeta Christian, Immediate Past President; University Representative, who serves at the pleasure of the President of the University. Mitch Robinson currently holds this position.

The Committee proposes the following slate of Officers and Board Members to fill open positions for 2017-18:

President: David Kanervo  
 Vice-president: Floyd Christian  
 Secretary: Eloise Weatherspoon  
 Treasurer: Sharon Silva  
 Director-at-large: Barbara Blackston  
 Director-at-large: Allene Phy-Olsen  
 Director-at-large: Carlton Stedman

The Committee has also proposed changing Article IX, Section ii, line 3 of the Bylaws to read “Additional nominations may be made by mail directed to the Nominating Committee to be received by that committee no later than 22 days prior to the election.” This change corrects an ambiguity in that section of the Bylaws.

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## MEMBERS AS OF MAY 10, 2017

Your officers and board appreciate each and every one of you. For questions about your membership status, write Membership Director Nancy Smithfield at smithfieldn@apsu.edu or Treasurer Nancy Irby at nanirb63@yahoo.com (552-0208).

Lawrence Baggett	Ann Harris	Sheila Pirkle
Mary Emma Barnes	Durward Harris	Bob Privett**
Al Bekus*	Joan Harris	Albert Randall
Barbara Blackston*	Camille Holt	Jeannie Randall*
Charles Boehms	Sherry Hoppe*	Mitch Robinson
Dewey Browder*	Cicero Alvin Hughes	Ann Ross
Richard Brown**	Gaines Hunt*	Shelia Ross
JoeAnn Burgess*	Al Irby**	Linda Rudolph*
John Butler*	Nancy Irby**	Sharon Silva
LuAnnette Butler*	Hazel Irwin	Linda Sittou*
Aleeta Christian	Ken Johnson	Norma Jean Smith
Floyd Christian	David Kanervo	David Smithfield
Jim Clemmer**	Ellen Kanervo	Nancy Smithfield*
Hester Crews**	Kathryn Kemmerly*	Diane Sperry
Anne Der	Phil Kemmerly*	Bill Taylor**
Margaret Deitrich	Carolyn Lander**	James Thompson
Arthur Eaves	John Lander**	Linda Thompson
Joe Filippo**	George Mabry*	Gerald Van Dyke
Inga Filippo**	Betty McClain	Thelma Watson
Solie Fott	Leon McQueen*	Eloise Weatherspoon*
Sara Gotcher*	Harriett McQueen*	Jerry Weatherspoon*
Mark Griggs	Anna Murray*	Robert Wibking*
Jim Hancock	Chris Nussbaumer	Barbara Wilbur*
Nancy Hancock	Allene Phy-Olsen	*=5 yr **= Lifetime
Rae Hansberry*	Pam Pickard	

**Officers**

*David Kanervo, President  
Floyd Christian, Vice-  
President  
Nancy Irby, Treasurer  
Barbara Wilbur, Secretary*

**Directors**

*Eloise Weatherspoon  
Nancy Smithfield  
Joe Filippo  
Mitch Robinson  
Phil Kemmerly  
George Mabry  
Aleeta Christian (ex officio)*

**Publicity Director**

*Jim Clemmer  
clemmerj@apsu.edu*

**Address**

*APSU Retirees Association  
Box 4426  
Clarksville, TN 37044*

**On the Web**

*apsu.edu/retirees-  
association*

*See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits.*

**Publication Information**

*The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published occasionally to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and NewsNotes are available at [apsu.edu/retirees-association](http://apsu.edu/retirees-association).*

*We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries and other experiences as APSU retirees.*

*Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at [clemmerj@apsu.edu](mailto:clemmerj@apsu.edu) with photographs sent individually as separate .jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.*

*Please let us know of retirees who for some reason are not receiving the Newsletter, and of errors or needed changes in your own name and address. If you would prefer not to receive the printed copy of the Newsletter, please notify Membership Director Nancy Smithfield ([smithfieldn@apsu.edu](mailto:smithfieldn@apsu.edu)). If you are not a member of APSURA but would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please notify Nancy Smithfield and provide her your email address.*

## APSURA Members Registration Form

New member    Renewing member    Retired faculty or staff    Associate member  
Check both of the above-right boxes if your spouse or partner is joining or renewing as an associate member.

Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_ Ms\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name of member: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Name of spouse/partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 (check all that apply):  Group travel;  Athletic events;  Cultural events;  Social events;  Scholarship activities;  Seminars;  Community work;  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership    \$25.00   Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044  
Associate Membership    \$25.00    5 years for \$100  
Additional donation for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_  Lifetime Membership \$500