



# Our Newsletter



September, October, November, 2024

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, RENA ZELANDER



Greetings to all FERC Members and Friends!!!

We were truly honored to host the esteemed Fredrick W. Smith as guest speaker during the FedEx Retiree Luncheon, June 13, 2024, at the Memphis National Golf Club in Memphis, TN.

The room was filled with enthusiasm and anticipation to hear about "Fred's" informative insights into the future of FedEx, which were deeply inspirational and motivating to all who attended. Hearing about the innovative strategies and exciting plans on the horizon reaffirmed our pride in the remarkable organization that we all have grown to love

and appreciate. We were inspired by Mr. Smith's enthusiasm about the future growth and prosperity of FedEx, which left us all with a renewed sense of connection to the FedEx legacy.

We appreciated Mr. Smith's willingness to engage with our group and share visions of what's to come next. It was a pleasure to witness his continued passion for FedEx, and it reminded us of the spirit and dedication that have driven the company's success over the years.

The video taken during the June 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon is being edited by corporate legal. We will post it on our website as soon as it is available so that everyone can enjoy it, including those local members who were unable to attend, as well as our satellite members.

Bravo Zulu, Mr. Smith!!! Congratulations on your retirement. Thank you for your many contributions and achievements that led to our successes!!! Please know that you have an open invitation to join us at any of the FedEx Retiree Club monthly luncheons held every second Thursday. We will keep everyone informed if the venue of the luncheon happens to change.

The FedEx Retiree Club mission is to pursue and promote the social, cultural, and recreational welfare of eligible retirees. The goal is to establish and foster friendly relations, loyalty, tradition, and identification with FedEx globally.

The FERC Board invites you to share your ideas for better accomplishing our mission, meeting our goals and using your membership dues to contribute to the success of our chosen charities.





Ron Wickens, Rose Ann Bradley



Vernie Kuglin

**FROM YOUR EDITOR,  
Jean Ward-Jones**

I must express my apologies for not getting more pictures as Mr. Smith acknowledged so many of his friends and associates from those early years. I assure you I was snapping my camera as fast as I could get shots. For those of you who couldn't be

with us for this exciting event, let me explain how it was handled. Our President, Rena Zellander, handled prepared questions as she and Mr. Smith sat in front of a very attentive audience. Barbara Walters couldn't have done a better job. Once we have received the video of this event, I will go through and capture the questions and answers and, over time, I'll print them in this newsletter. In the meantime, we'll all just look forward to his next visit.



Trip Jones, Steve Stapleton



Rick Coman



Kuhlman Kenny—they are admiring the first company- issued pilot's jacket.

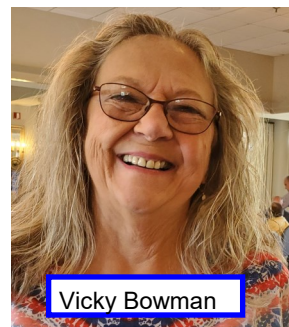


**October 10, 2024**  
Windyke Country Club

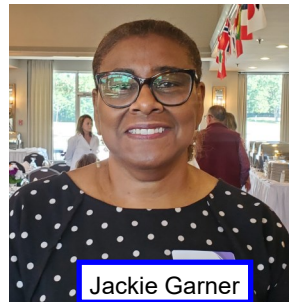
As you know, your club, the FERC, has been supporting the Annual FedExFamilyHouse Golf Tournament for years. In return, we qualify to field a team of four players to play in the tournament. Since FERC is a national organization, we are inviting our members from all over the country to fill one or all four slots if they find themselves visiting Memphis at that time. The cost to play (\$150) will be shared with the Retiree Club as \$75 paid by the player with an equal match of \$75 paid by the club. Registration will be on a first-come basis accompanied with your check and made out to FERC and not to me.

Registration details are shown below with contact and mailing information. October is a great time for a tournament and a good time to visit Memphis for a great cause.

Tournament date: October 10, 2024.....Make your check out to FERC, not to Roger Albee. Mail your check in the amount of \$75 to Roger Albee, 2954 Mistwood Cove, North, Collierville, TN 38017. There are 2 starts, one at 8 AM and another at 1 PM. Please make your own travel and hotel accommodations. Registrations will be made on a first-come (with check) basis. My phone number is: 901.619.7713. My email: [ferc2ra@gmail.com](mailto:ferc2ra@gmail.com). Registration will close on October 1, 2024.



Vicky Bowman



Jackie Garner



## GIVE MORE THAN HUGS, GIVE THEM A HEAD START.

Open Youth Savings or Share Certificates for your family

FECA membership is open to your children and grandkids. Ensure they have a bright future with a FECA Youth Savings & Youth Share Certificates.

You deliver  
to our families,  
we deliver for yours.



Savings



Checking



Home



Auto



fecca.com | 901.344.2500



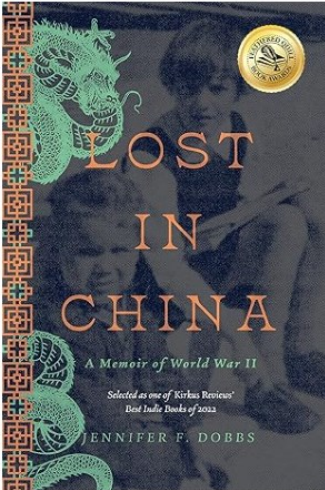
FedEx Employees  
Credit Association



### FROM YOUR EDITOR:

In August, those of us who attended the monthly luncheon were privileged to hear from one of our own, Jennifer F. Dobbs. She talked with us about a book she's been trying to write for years but when she tried, she mostly cried. She finally decided it was now or never and spent six months writing her memoirs (she's now 94 years old)—I took the following information from her website, [lostinchinabook.com](http://lostinchinabook.com). I also listened to the book on Audible and found it exciting, interesting and touching. About the book....

It's November 1941. Siblings Jennifer and John, ages seven and five, huddle in a cement culvert near Kunming, China, while Japanese Zeros fly overhead. Jennifer pretends to ignore the screech of gunfire. *Where are Daddy and Mummy?* she thinks.



*Lost in China* is the true story of two Anglo-American children separated from their parents in China during World War II, and their unforgettable journey to America a year later.

When their mother and father fly to Hong Kong on a short trip and get caught up in the Japanese attack, the Dobbs children are left parentless, with no idea when their parents will return—or if they are even still alive. For a year, the children remain in Western China.

Finally, after spending a month traveling three-quarters of the way around the world via the US military's World War II air ferry routes, they reunite with their mother in a rain-swept, deserted airfield in Washington, DC—and face a shocking discovery about their father.

*Lost in China* is both a riveting firsthand account of a family broken apart in World War II China and a daughter's tribute to her beloved father.

Jennifer Dobbs's experience of being lost in China led her to study Montessori teaching methods in Bergamo and Perugia, Italy. As a Montessori teacher, Dobbs helped open five schools in Pennsylvania and Mississippi. She holds a bachelor of arts in English, a bachelor of science in psychology, and a master's in school counseling. After years of working with children, Dobbs joined the FedEx operations and sales training departments and worked in China when the company first initiated service there. Dobbs is now dedicated to animal rescue. She incorporated a group called Pet matchmaker Rescue South, which cares for and places hundreds of dogs and cats each year. Dobbs currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee. *Lost in China* is her first book.

**JOHN FELTER, Indianapolis, reports:** Can you tell we were having a good time—we met at Rick's Café Boatyard—and we'll meet again on November 5, 2024, Election Day—same place. Mark your calendars!





## Quality and Reliable Home Care Service You Can Trust

Finding the right home care for your loved one, whether they are aging, disabled, or recovering from surgery, is a serious decision. It takes courage and willingness. With FirstLight Home Care of Germantown and Collierville, you can rest assured your loved one is in experienced and capable hands. We will not disappoint you. FirstLight provides compassionate in-home care, senior care and respite care to adults. Whether it is illness, injury, disability, dementia, transportation, or just challenges that come with old age, we can help.

As a home care company serving Memphis, Germantown, Collierville, Cordova, and surrounding areas in Tennessee and Mississippi, we are here for your loved one with compassionate and innovative caregiving services.

**Please call 901-554-5483**  
**Visit [FirstLightHomeCare.com](http://FirstLightHomeCare.com)**  
**855 Willow Tree Circle**  
**Cordova, TN 38018**



### Meet Your Collierville, Germantown and Memphis Owners

Carmelyta and Jinliang (Jin) Cai started the FirstLight Home Care, a leading national home care brand known for high quality care, to the Memphis in 2021. Carmelyta has a 20 plus years career as a Registered Nurse, most notably as a surgical nurse at St. Francis Hospital, and step-down ICU nurse at Germantown Methodist Hospital. Her multitude of awards including the 2020 Nursing Star speak to the high quality of care and professionalism she brings to each and every patient. Jin had a 17-year career as a FedEx Flight Ops Manager in Memphis and Guangzhou, and truly believes in a people-first approach to management.

At FirstLight Home Care, they bring together the best of professional in-home caregiving and management expertise to serve the greater Memphis senior community.



**TRACY WILLIS, Des Moines, reports:**

In July we met at the Destination Grill in Grimes, IO. We arrived at 4:00 and the last of us left at 8:00. Guess you could say we were having a good time.

In June Shauna & Rick Ries (my FedEx 'work sister' and her husband), Angela Johnson & Cynthia Barber (my

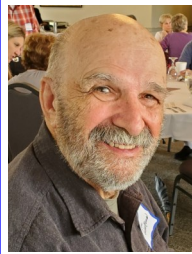


older sisters), my husband and I enjoyed 16 days of traveling together. So much fun! We spent time in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, London, Guernsey, Ireland and Norway. Shauna and I worked together for 33 years. The six of us took an Oceania 12-day cruise. We're now talking about the next cruise and several of our fellow retirees are interested in joining us.

**CALLING CARDS.....NOW** is a good time to order your Retiree Calling Cards. There is no better bargain than our current pricing of \$41 for a box of 250 cards delivered to your home anywhere in the USA. You may order by using the PayPal link on our Web site, or by sending a check to Roger Albee at the address on the sample card shown below.



**Roger L. Albee**  
President Emeritus  
2954 Mistwood Cove North  
Collierville, TN 38017  
Res. 901.853.0488  
ferc2ra@gmail.com



**THANKS TO RON WICKENS**, President Emeritus, for his years of service, both to FedEx and to our Club. At 90, Ron is "retiring" from the Club, and his position. He and Julia will be staying closer to home and taking good care of one another. We'll miss them. They have been huge supporters of our Club and we wish them good health and peaceful days.



Martha Moore & Bob Penny



Joe Sevick & Theresa Brignole



Your Board members at work for your club: Back Row—Ron Wickens, Art Benjamin, Ellis Rankin, Roger Albee—Front Row—Suzie Tidwell, Juliet Waddell, Eva Lantrip, Rena Zellander & Andrea Wright (Rose Ann Bradley was unable to attend this meeting).



**LUNCHEON ACTIVITIES—2024**

- September—BINGO
- October—Health Fair
- November—  
Thomas C. Ferguson,  
MD, VA Memphis Chief of Staff
- December—Holiday Party

## Older Americans are Top Scam Targets

To stop a scam, you must learn to spot one. The main hallmarks of cons to watch for and detect could include the following elements:

- **Claims of significant financial gains**
- **Promises of financial security**
- **Scare tactics** or efforts to trigger fear
- **Slim details** of how a promoted venture works
- **Considerable pressure** to make a rapid decision or commitment
- **Gift cards or bit coin** requested for fund transfers



### We help protect your personal information from getting into the wrong hands.

As an IDShield member, you will have a dedicated licensed private investigator on your case if you have an identity theft threat and receive alerts in real time on the app.

IDShield Plan Benefits:

- \$1 Million Protection Policy
- Protect your SSN, 401K, Pensions & more!
- Full Service Restoration
- Licensed Investigators will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes to restore your identity to pre-theft status



[LegalShield.com/info/FedExCorp](https://LegalShield.com/info/FedExCorp)

According to the FTC Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2022

# 1,108,609

## IDENTITY THEFT

### REPORTS WERE RECEIVED BY THE FTC

Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2022 - Federal Trade Commission - [ftc.gov/data](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/CSN-Data-Book-2022.pdf)  
[https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc\\_gov/pdf/CSN-Data-Book-2022.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/CSN-Data-Book-2022.pdf)

### STORIES FROM THE EARLY DAYS

By: Art Benjamin



In the earlier days of FedEx, there was no assigned department to evaluate outside aircraft-related proposals. Consequently, entrepreneurs, some of them charlatans trolling for FedEx dollars, would descend upon Fred Smith and the corporate executives with their proposals. Eventually, Aircraft Strategic Projects was formed with evaluation of outside proposals being one of their tasks. But before that happened, a certain Dr. Gordine (we never did validate his academic credentials) sold Purchasing his scheme and equipment for runway fog dispersal.



His scheme involved placing units at periodic intervals on either side of the runway and Purchasing had already bought 24 units. Each unit had a 1.5 HP air compressor to pressurize a water tank. The water would then flow through an ionization gizmo and then be sprayed into the air. His theory was that the ionized water droplets would constitute condensation nuclei and precipitate the fog. Probably any good weatherman would have known this wouldn't work.

My boss, Bruce, and I, as Chief Engineer in the newly formed Aircraft Strategic Projects Dept, learned of this project, albeit late. We insisted on testing a unit before runway installation was started. Neither of us believed it would work. There was no good place on the field to test, so we took a unit to Bruce's back yard. That morning, we had a very light, almost indiscernible fog, unusual for Memphis. We fired up Dr. Gordine's unit and within a minute, the entire back yard was IFR. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face! The good Dr. had invented not a fog dispersal machine, but a fog generating machine!

The units were eventually sold to FedEx employees on a first-come – first-served basis for \$50. They did have a nice 4-cylinder oil-less air compressor. I got one for my son-in-law.

**FROM YOUR EDITOR:** I know many of you have similar stories of things that didn't go quite right "way back when." How about sharing them? My email is [jeanward-jones@comcast.net](mailto:jeanward-jones@comcast.net)



Dennis & Suzanne Lee



Edith Kelly-Green

## HONORING OUR VETERANS—VETERANS OUTREACH, MEMPHIS, Ellis “Doc” Rankin, Travel Committee Chair, VA Liaison & Asst. Chaplain

I am happy to announce the grand opening of the Fisher House in the medical center at the VA Hospital on September 17th. The 16-suite Memphis Fisher House will provide a “home away from home” for up to 5,840 nights each year and offer families savings of over \$700,000 in lodging and transportation annually. The Memphis area has waited a long time to get our own Fisher House and we thank all those who donated and helped make it a reality.



The plaque reads “The Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher House....This gift is dedicated to our greatest national treasure, our military service men and women and their loved ones.”

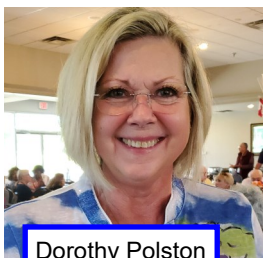


These are the items needed by the VA for their patients. Please do what you can to support our military veterans..

Men’s Underwear, all sizes	Female Sleep Shirts, Sleep Pants
Men’s PJ pants, M, L, XL, 3XL	Female Sports Bras, Underwear, Socks
Fixodent or Poligrip Denture Cream	Travel-sized Toiletries
Denture Cleaner	Reading Glasses (Strength Identified)
Denture Soaking Cups	Purex Liquid Laundry Detergent for Baby 75 oz
Bus Passes	J & J First Touch Kits, burp clothes and bibs
Lap Robe, Small Blanket, or Throws	Fisher Price Healthcare Kit, 5 pc
T-shirts, Socks	Parent’s Choice Dry & Gentle Baby Diapers, sizes N & 1



Judy Brandon



Dorothy Polston



Alicia West



**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** Go to FERC—FedEx Retirees Club to get a really good feel for our luncheons. Andrea Wright takes lots of pictures and posts them after each luncheon. C'mon—Be our Friend!!



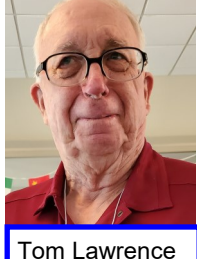
Cecelia Wright



Sheila Edmonds



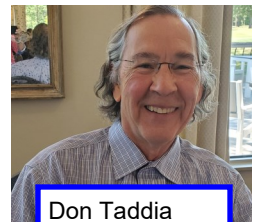
William McKelvey



Tom Lawrence



Danny Washburn



Don Taddia





## Matthew J Syron

Financial Advisor  
CEPA®, AAMSTM™

### Office Information

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[www.edwardjones.com/matthew-syron](http://www.edwardjones.com/matthew-syron)

Thanks to our fantastic clients and the support of my team, I was recognized by Forbes as one of the 2023 Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-In-State. I ranked number 11 in Tennessee and number two in the Memphis area.\* This recognition is truly an honor as I aim to be the best financial advisor possible and consistently improve our level of personal service.

Our office is in Germantown/Collierville area near the intersection of Poplar Pike and Forest Hill Irene - Just three miles from the FedEx World headquarters.

At our office, we pride ourselves on delivering an excellent client experience tailored specifically for executives and professionals associated with the numerous major employers headquartered in Memphis. By understanding the unique financial challenges and opportunities faced by individuals in these high-stakes environments, we provide personalized comprehensive planning and investment strategies. Our team is dedicated to building long-term relationships, offering experienced guidance and helping ensure our clients' financial goals are met. Whether it's retirement planning, wealth strategies or navigating complex compensation packages, we are committed to being your trusted financial partner every step of the way.

Our clients are supported every day by my outstanding Branch Office Administrators, Melissa Castleman and Dawn Norman. A financial advisor is only as good as his team, and I know I have one of the best in the industry!

In addition to being a financial advisor, I am a limited partner with the firm and hold my AAMSTM™ and CEPA® designations. I serve in various roles at the firm, including as a field trainer to new financial advisors.

Outside of work, I love spending time with my family, especially if it is coaching their sports teams, traveling or being on Pickwick Lake. My wife, Megan, and I have been married since 2009 and have four children, Parker, Elijah, Shepherd and our baby girl, Vivienne.

Please contact my office if you have general questions or would like to schedule an initial conversation.

\*2023 Forbes Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-in-State in TN, published August 2023, research by SHOOK® Research LLC, data as of March 2023. Compensation provided for using, not obtaining, the rating. The rating is not based on quality of investment advice, investment performance or client feedback.

### Branch Team

Melissa Castleman  
Sr. Branch Office Administrator  
Dawn Norman  
Branch Office Administrator

### Work History

**Edward Jones**  
January 2009 - Present

### Education

**Univ of Missouri-St Louis**  
MBA (Masters of Bus Admin)  
**Univ of Missouri-Columbia**  
Bachelor of Business Admin

# The Chaplain's Corner: VOTING IS A RIGHT AND A RESPONSIBILITY

By: Ken Pfohl

*"When we **vote**, our values are put into action and our voices are heard. Your voice is a reminder that you matter because you do, and you deserve to be heard."*  
~**Meghan Markle**, *Duchess of Sussex*~



Despite all of the U.S. media's fanfare about our last midterm elections, most eligible voters duck their civic duties on Election Day. Historically, nearly one-third fewer U.S. voters show up to the polls during a midterm election than during a presidential election. However, a recent poll by both liberal and conservative media platforms shows that nearly eighty percent of Americans think that our nation is "on the wrong track," and that "drastic change is needed in Washington, D.C."

Our beloved nation is probably as divided as it was during the War Between the States when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and right after that war. Today, the political rhetoric can be summed up in one word—Hate! Our leadership and respect on the world stage is ebbing and, with respect to our enemies, we are most vulnerable. Our border is as broken as that of the Roman Empire when it collapsed. Our present annualized rate of inflation is greater than that of the UK, Spain, South Korea, Japan, Germany, France, and our neighbor, Canada. Interest rates are rising and, as of August 13, 2024, the US federal government's debt is \$35.16 trillion. And, where did all this gender neutrality come from? But there is also some good news: "Freedom still Rings in America" and ["Voting is a Right and a Responsibility!"](#)

That word, Responsibility is interesting. The word responsible as an adjective can mean: "to be called to account of or be the primary cause, motive, or agent." In-other-words, there can be perhaps two causes, agents, or authorities that can initiate Voting—the Individual or the Government. That brings up the subject of Compulsory Voting, or voting required by the State—like paying taxes or serving as a Juror. There are currently 32 countries with Compulsory Voting of which 19 pursue it through enforcement. In Brazil voting is not a right. It is a requirement of the 1932 Constitution. According to the Constitution, voting is an obligation for anyone over the age of 18. Failure to vote without justification is subject to penalty. You can be fined between 3-10% of the local minimum salary and be prohibited from getting a passport or ID, obtaining a public sector job, participating in a government auction, or receiving a government loan. Altogether, an estimated 744 million people live in nations with compulsory voting laws.

Australia serves as an example of Compulsory Voting. One of the initial reasons for introducing compulsory voting in Australia, and one of the arguments frequently advanced for maintaining it, is that it maintains a high level of participation in elections. The turnout at Australian elections has not fallen below ninety percent since the introduction of compulsory voting in 1924.

Just between you and me—I would rather stick with our American view that "Voting is a Right and a Responsibility!"

I don't usually like to use a personal example in my writings, but my story about my first experience with voting is both instructive and bittersweet. I had just turned 18 and had returned to Atlanta after being an American field service exchange student to West Germany, and was about to graduate from my HS in Buckhead. My father called me and suggested that I meet him at the Fulton County Election Commission in downtown Atlanta. At that time there were only two states that allowed 18-year-olds to vote—Georgia and Alaska.

At the Registrar's office, I filled out the forms, raised my right hand and became a first-time-voter. It ranked with getting my Learner's Permit, Driver License, Selective Service Draft number and Social Security number. A Georgia primary election was only three weeks away. For three weeks I studied the various candidates' history, voting records, legislation that they sponsored, if any, and their current platform statement, plus the two local Referendums. Using a sample ballot from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper, I highlighted my voting choices. I was prepared to vote for the first time. So much for the sweet part of my bittersweet account. Now for the bitter (or disappointing) part and then the rest of the story, as they say.

On election day I walked into the gym of *East Rivers Elementary* on *Peachtree-Battle Avenue* to vote. After presenting

my new registered voter card, I joined the line to use the lever-action Votomatic machine. An elderly lady was in line just ahead of me. She had what appeared to be the Atlanta newspaper folded and under her arm. She turned to me and exclaimed, "Well, young man, you must be a first-time-voter." I replied, "Yes ma'am." Then she said, "I think it is wonderful that you young folks are taking an interest in our government!" Then she took the newspaper from under her arm, opened it up, and said: "I don't know what I'd do, if I didn't have this to help me through the election process!"

And now for the bitter rest of the story! Instead of showing me the newspaper's Sample Ballot, she showed me the Editor and Publisher's column on page A3 which listed the newspaper's preferences for the Primary Election. I have never forgotten how disappointed in the older generation I felt that day. Today, I think how important it is for our seasoned-citizen generation to, not only demonstrate that "Voting is a Right and a Responsibility," but to vote intelligently after doing our research..

Intelligent voting makes the most of human capital and provides the freedom to pursue individual goals without interference from society or government, assuming the goal doesn't proactively harm another. Another important principle is to vote based on policy not personality. Examine whether the policies the candidate is advancing have a good chance of achieving success based on economics, math, logic (common sense) and history?" Ask yourself how the candidates have handled their duties in their elected positions in the past. Finally, determine whether the candidates' past actions match the current image they are trying to portray?

Voting is more than just a civic duty—it's a powerful tool that shapes the future of our society and the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness our children and grandchildren deserve. Voting is a powerful act that affects everything from local community issues to national policies. It is our opportunity to make our voices heard, hold leaders accountable, honor history, build a better and safer future for America and ensure that the world we leave for the next generation is fair, just, and thriving.

The 2024 U.S. Presidential Election on November 5th, will be the 60<sup>th</sup> quadrennial presidential election in our nation's history and portends to be the sole, proximate, contributing and potential determinant of our future as a respected, lawful, safe and free Republic.

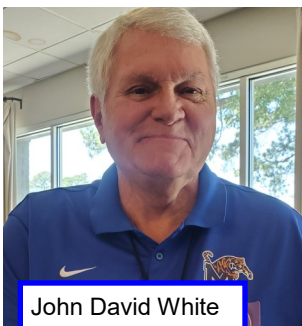


*"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." ~Ronald Reagan~*

*"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower~*

*"Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote." ~William E. Simon~*

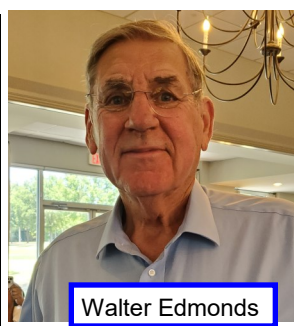
*"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country." ~Samuel Adams~*



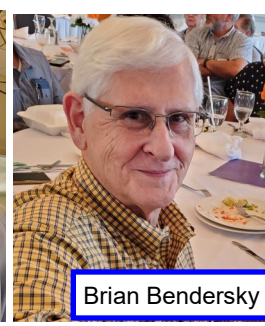
John David White



Ginger Powell



Walter Edmonds



Brian Bendersky



Josie Davis



Mary Ann Hill



Susan David



Loraine Dickerson



Belinda Rhea



Ginger Moll Powell



P. O Box 383001  
Germantown, TN 38183-3001

**Your Officers and Board Members:**

**Rena Zellander, President**  
**Ron Wickens, President Emeritus**  
**Suzie Tidwell, Vice President**  
**Martha Thomas, Treasurer**  
**Rose Ann Bradley, Secretary**  
**Arun Kulkarni, Finance & Audit Chair**  
**Art Benjamin, Membership Chair**  
**Keith Brewer, Information/Technology Chair**  
**OPEN, Communications Chair**  
**Roger Albee, Marketing/Sales Chair**  
**Ellis "Doc" Rankin, Travel Chair, VA Liaison, Asst. Chaplain**  
**Eva Lantrip, Luncheon Chair**  
**Laverne Randolph & Juliet Waddell, Special Events Chairs**  
**Ken Pfohl, Chaplain's Care Chair**  
**OPEN, Special Committee Chair**  
**Jean Ward-Jones & Carolyn Gause Davis, Newsletter Team**  
**Andrea Wright, FaceBook Coordinator**