

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP BLACK BELT PROGRAM

## E-NEWSLETTER

January 2015



### PROGRAM NEWS

The first-ever BBP Holiday Luncheon was held on Friday, December 19, 2014, in DOHR's office downtown. Almost a full third of the BBP membership attended, and despite a little hitch in the food delivery by our outside vendor, the luncheon seemed to be a rousing success! (Not to worry - everybody *did* get their lunch, though some a bit later than others.) Several members of the BBP committee provided short, informational segments during the luncheon (members who attended should remember to enter the event as a strategic development activity ["lunch and learn"] toward their next belt level), and the BBP networking subcommittee that pulled it all together deserves our thanks. This committee was headed by Tammy Golden and Richard Kennedy, and BBP member volunteers included Melissa Wiseman and Lauren Hill. Great work, great fellowship, and great desserts, team – **THANK YOU!!**

If you attended the luncheon, please e-mail Tammy ([tammy.golden@tn.gov](mailto:tammy.golden@tn.gov)) or Richard ([richard.kennedy@tn.gov](mailto:richard.kennedy@tn.gov)) and give them your feedback. Whether or not you attended, we'd also like to know if you'd be interested in attending another luncheon like this in the future!



### MEMBER NEWS

As of January 4, 2015, the following leadership program alumni have joined the BBP community (since November 26, 2014). Welcome! We're glad to have you all, and wish you a challenging and rewarding leadership development journey!

Jessica Montgomery, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations  
Vincent Barnes, General Services  
Kristin Martin, Correction  
Renee Boles, Finance and Administration  
Jeff Kimmell, Human Services





Want to volunteer in your community but don't know where to start? Here are a few links to get you started. Each website offers search engines for opportunities in your area!



<http://www.volunteermatch.org/>



<http://www.handsonnetwork.org/>



<http://www.pointsoflight.org/>

## PROGRAM STATS

Total membership: 191 Leaders from at least 34 different state entities as of January 4, 2015. These leaders have dedicated a combined total of over 2,800 YEARS of service to the state of Tennessee!!

<u>By 1st Completed Leadership Program</u>	<u># Leaders</u>
Green Leadership	5
HR Master	1
LEAD Tennessee	72
Mission Possible	4
NLLA	9
TGEI	41
TGMI	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>

Since the inception of the program one year ago, members have logged over:

- 1,926 hours of internal service (within state government)
- 2,410 hours of external service (within our communities)
- 10,204 strategic development activity points
- 2,285 miscellaneous activity points

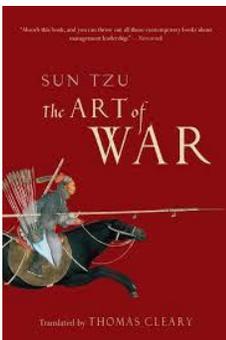
Belts (other than white) have been awarded to date in the numbers shown below:

- 5 – Blue Belts
- 4 – Orange Belts
- 13 – Yellow Belts

As of 1-4-15, the following belt promotions are pending review and approval:

- 5 – Green Belts
- 4 – Blue Belts
- 8 – Orange Belts
- 16 – Yellow Belts

## LEADERS ARE READERS



**Tennessee Government Leader Ralph M. Perrey, Executive Director, THDA on Readership for Leaders**

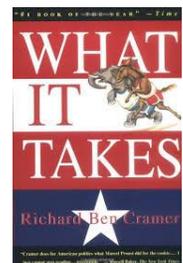
Asked to suggest leadership reading for participants in the Black Belt program, I cannot resist leading with Sun Tzu's "The Art of War". Mine is a translation by Thomas Cleary from 1988 that includes context and commentary; it's a quick read. He writes about military situations during a deeply troubled time in China's history but makes points about the qualities and judgments of leaders that have broader application, such as: "If you know

*others and know yourself, you will not be imperiled; if you do not know others but know yourself, you win one and lose one; if you do not know others and do not know yourself, you will be imperiled in every single battle."*

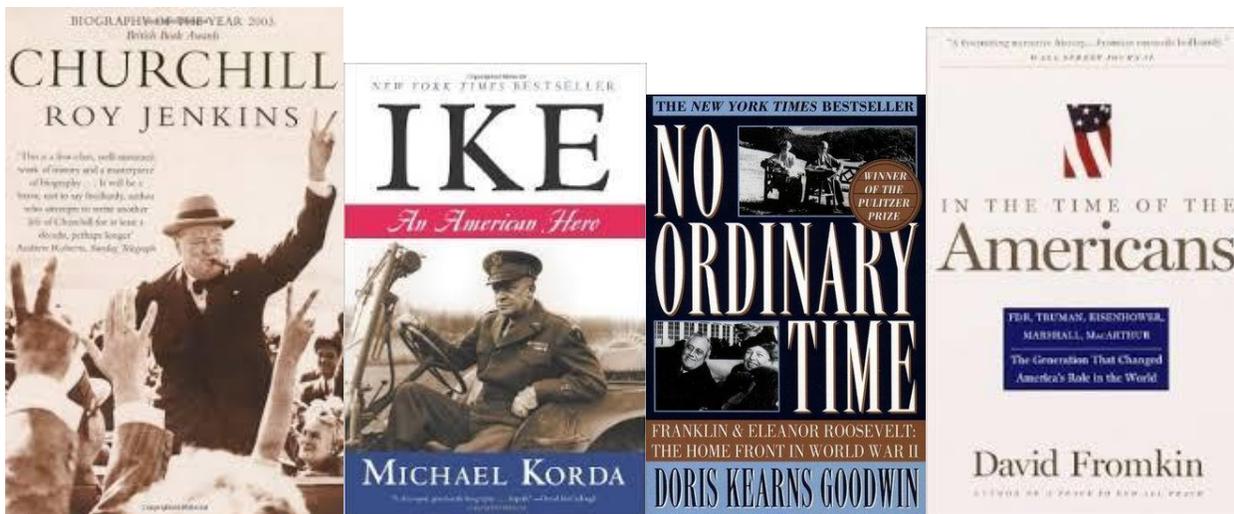
In my own experience I have learned more about leadership qualities from reading about successful leaders, as opposed to these "How to be a leader in 14 easy steps"-type books. Among my favorites I would recommend to you:

- Roy Jenkins' "Churchill"; a fine biography on the man many regard as the preeminent statesman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Michael Korda's "Ike, An American Hero"; Eisenhower's is an under-appreciated presidency, during which he deftly handled a number of situations that could have escalated into superpower confrontations, to say nothing of his skillful leadership of the Allied coalition in WWII.
- Doris Kearns Goodwin's "No Ordinary Time". You thought I was going to recommend her book on Lincoln "Team of Rivals" – also good, but you've likely read it. "No Ordinary Time" is about FDR's leadership during the Great Depression and World War II.
- David Fromkin's "In the Time of the Americans"; it tracks the leaders of the generation shaped by WWI and its aftermath [FDR, George Marshall, Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman and others less known today but still consequential] as they rise to positions of leadership in WWII and usher in the era of America as superpower.

Working in government service, you may find it interesting and useful to gain insight into what elected officials go through to *get* elected. Richard Ben Kramer's Pulitzer Prize-winning book "What It Takes" is, in my mind, the single best book ever written about this. It follows six of the men who ran for president in 1988, a long time ago, but it's the experience of the candidates that still resonates. It's a big book so you may want to pick one of the six candidates and just the read the chapters about him [Bob Dole's campaign actually took the Dole chapters from this book and released it as its own volume during Dole's 1996 campaign.]



On a lighter but still relevant note, I suggest some of the essays in Thomas Boswell's "How Life Imitates the World Series". As Boswell notes, "given the choice between raw effort and controlled skill, the latter will usually win... baseball cultivates a certain balanced temperament, encourages a stable cast of mind, what we regard as mental health" – a good thing for all of us in positions of leadership. Don't get too high or too low for, as the late Earl Weaver said, "We do this every day". Happy reading.



## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Remember, we welcome your contributions to the e-newsletter, and there are really no specific rules other than submit, submit, submit! If we can't cram it into the space this month, we'll get it in there next time. Send your feedback or future articles to [sendy.parker@tn.gov](mailto:sendy.parker@tn.gov).



If you have any questions, feel free to contact any member of the BBP Committee.

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