

TGMI

Interim Newsletter



Tennessee Government Management Institute

Article Spotlight on the February, 2010 Steering Committee Minutes, Article by E. Ross White, Vice Chairperson



Since beginning my trek with TGMI that started for me back in 2006, I was struck with the thought that we as state managers who share common goals, responsibilities and dreams to make our agencies the "best in Tennessee", could be able to help transform the notion many have about state management that we are somehow mediocre at best. We have been afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet each other and to network with our alumni who actually do care about doing just that. But, then I thought given the nature of things what could get these aspirations off square one and involve the right set of parent agencies responsible for making us a "world class institute", a noble thought espoused by the greatest Human Resources Commissioner herself, our own Deborah Story. Well you know as change is inevitable though sometimes not what we had envisioned, I want to let you know that we now have a new mother-

ship, and a strong commitment from the University of Tennessee, Institute for Public Service, Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership, and from the Department of Human Resources to do just that.

Now as all positive and good things that come along happen, and change occurs, sometimes myths do emerge about some negative side to all this. Let me tell you right here and now there is no negative side to the bright future we now all have from the new evolution of parent agency involvement with the TGMI and EI leadership programs. Along these lines we thought you would be interested to see the very first meeting where the first come-together discussion was held with the agency representatives that are now leading your Institute program. Some very positive vibes came out of that meeting and we would like to share them with you. Therefore, please see the February minutes of the 2010 TGMI Steering Committee, Chaired by Jon Zirkle, where all this was introduced on the record for you the alumni to peruse and behold. If you haven't been to the TGMI website on the Dept. of Human Resources site, now would be a great time to check it out. I think you will be excited and informed by what you read, and maybe inspired and encouraged a bit during these challenging times we all face.

<http://tn.gov/dohr/TGMI/minutes.html>



Jon Zirkle
Department of
Transportation



Marilou Cook
Department of Finance & Administration

Just to add a word regarding your Steering Committee, we are having an unprecedented volunteer spirit from you the alumni to our new Speakers Bureau initiative. Marilou Cook, our Education and Leadership Chairperson, has lined up several schools in the state to host van loads of speakers covering a diverse background of the alumni as to their experience and education. This in turn to encourage the students not only about staying in school but about how they can use their education in a host of careers with the state. Education and hope go hand in hand, and you may just offer some encouragement to a young person and change their life forever at some future college and career day. What better platform to launch this effort than that of TGMI and to help improve the lives of future Tennesseans in offering them a valuable insight on state agency work. Also, we hope to actually involve you as TGMI alumni, and not only those signed up in the Speakers Bureau, by encouraging you to check with your own local high school or other opportunity in your community and offer to speak there, just check in with us afterwards so we can add your positive experience to our newsletter. If you have any questions about these speakers initiatives please contact me, Jon or Marilou directly.



Phyllis Hodges
Department of Education

Meanwhile, Phyllis Hodges, Chairperson of the Events Committee, has been very busy putting together luncheon conferences, the first was a successful venture and introduced some of the 2010 Class to what they will be looking forward to as part of their involvement with TGMI. Also, mark your calendars for Sept. 20, as Phyllis, Marilou and the rest will have a most interesting Fall Conference lined up this year with notable state officials lined up as speakers, and topics sure to include the coming transition time, and the next administration and beyond.



Lauren Hill
Department of Environment & Conservation

Finally, our Community Service Committee, headed up by Chairperson Robyn Probus has already had some very positive experiences with a Habitat for Humanity project that was very successful. They are also looking forward to our annual Harpeth River Cleanup initiative. Stay tuned for future projects that you can volunteer for and that can really make a difference in our state and for all Tennesseans. TGMI is on the move! Volunteer and be rewarded for your efforts and your leadership.

<http://tn.gov/dohr/TGMI/minutes.html>

2010 Steering Committee

Chairperson

Jon Zirkle
Class of 2003

Vice Chairperson

E. Ross White
Class of 2006

Past Chairperson

Lauren Hill
Class of 2006

2009 Class Member

Julie Lamb
Mehran Mostajir

2008 Class Members

Carolyn Head Estep
Vojin Janjic

At Large Members

Chris Harris
Class of 2008 Session I
Georganne Martin
Class of 2008 Session II
Phyllis Hodges
Class of 2008 Session II
Marilou Cook
Class of 2007

EX-Officio Member

Trish Pulley
Class of 2008 Session I

Newsletter Design

April Wright
Class of 2008 Session I



Vojin Janjic
Department of Environment & Conservation



Carolyn Head Estep
TN Housing Development Agency



Mehran Mostajir
TRICOR



Chris Harris
Department of Transportation



Julie Lamb
Department of Transportation



Georganne Martin
Department of Finance & Administration



Trish Pulley
Department of Human Resources