



TGMI NEWS 2015

Tennessee Government Management Institute

Summer Edition

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Message from the Chair

Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2012)



When I initially ran for the position of TGMI Chair, I did so because I wanted to give back to those who had provided me with one of the best management training courses I have had the pleasure of participating in. And I can say in all honesty that the first six

months have been challenging, a bit intimidating at times, but oh so exhilarating. When Clinton stated 'it takes a village', she definitely could have been referring to the 2015 TGMI Steering Committee. I have the good fortune of having a superb group of people serving on the Steering Committee – all of whom have created excellent programs for TGMI alumni during the first part of this year. We have experienced two hockey games, a Meet-and-Greet, two volunteer events with Second Harvest, a volunteer event at the Music City Marathon, four Lunch and Learns, and the addition of the 2015 TGMI class. Pretty outstanding for the first six months of the year!

So what are we considering for the final six months of 2015? We will kick off our

Make-A-Wish Campaign on August 3rd, working to reach a goal of \$5,000 raised to meet a child's wish, by November 1. Ball games, an Octoberfest picnic for alumni and family, a lunch & learn focused on developing mentors for the college bound students through the tAchieves program, and the Annual Christmas breakfast are a few of the events being put together.

The first six months – most definitely great fun. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2015 TGMI Chair. My goal for the balance of the year? What better way to end the year than to help a child achieve his or her dream. Let's not only meet but exceed our goal for Make-A-Wish. With all Alumni working together we can make this happen.

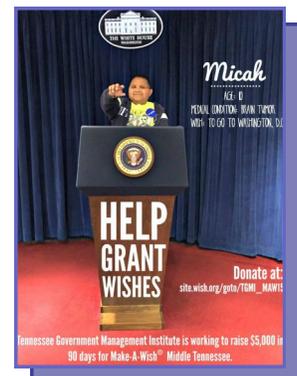
Make a Wish Come True

The TGMI Alumni Association is participating in a Make-A-Wish campaign, which kicks off August 3rd, and runs until November 1st. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to make a wish come true. I hope each of you will get behind the effort, as this is a life changing event for a child and their family.

You can donate money at the following link:

http://site.wish.org/goto/TGMI_MAW15

At a Glance
Make-A-Wish Campaign
August 3 - November 1
Goal: \$5,000





Promotions



Kyle Hunter (Class of 2014) was promoted within the Central Procurement Office to Deputy Director of Category Management.



Cynthia Stewart (Class of 2008-I) was promoted to Senior Project Administrator for the Driver Services Issuance Division with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security.



Michelle Hudson (Class of 2014) was promoted to Assistant Director of the Department of Revenue's Vehicle Services Division on February 15, 2015.



John Duncan (Class of 2005) was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Revenue.



Curtis Clan (Class of 2008-I) was promoted to the Interim Chief Information Security Officer for the State of Tennessee.

Alayna Duffel (Class of 2013) was promoted to Deputy Director of Program Services. She has oversight of Reentry, Volunteer, Religious, Education, Vocation, and Victim Services for the Department of Correction.

Shannon Hardin (Class of 2015) was promoted to Quality Assurance Manager with the Department of Human Resources.

Nicholas A. Brindle (Class of 2013) was promoted to Legislative Counsel for the Department of Human Services.

Sherita Woods (Class of 2011) was recently promoted to Fiscal Director 2 with Finance and Administration's Division of Accounts.

Remembering a Friend



Wilbur E. "Buddy" Hooks, II
(August 23, 1947-March 22, 2015)

Wilbur E. "Buddy" Hooks, II passed away March 22, 2015, at the age of 67. Mr. Hooks was a graduate of the TGMI Class of 2000. He started with the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue over 43 year ago and ultimately held the position of Director of Tax Enforcement. He will be greatly missed.



Retirements



David Remke (Class of 2000) retired from the Department of Revenue May 2014. He's currently working for the Department of Revenue as a 120-day employee.



Floyd Hall (Class of 2000) retired June 2014. You can stay in touch with Floyd by email at FloydJ12@gmail.com.



Melvin Jones (Class of 2002) is retiring from state government in August. Not only has Melvin been a great addition to the Department of Revenue, but a very involved member of the TGMI alumni group. If you'd like to remain in contact with Melvin, you can email him at MelvinJones62@gmail.com.



Ritchie Worrell (Class of 2010) retired July 31, 2015, from the Department of Human Resources after 38 years of service. He has plans to travel, fish, play golf, and spend more time with the Nashville Corvette Club.



Wedding Announcements

Jaclyn Austin (Class of 2013) married Justin Harding on April 10, 2015, on the beach in Destin, Florida.



Michelle Smith's (Class of 2013) daughter, Caitlin, married Jared Law, on June 27, 2015, in Nashville at Historic Traveller's Rest. Julie Nichols (Class of 2013) sang during the bride and groom's first dance.



Donna Pewitt (Class of 2011) is happy to announce the marriage of her daughter, Katelyn, to Brandon Huckaby on March 28, 2015.



Mike Rock (Class of 2010) and his wife Rebecca happily announce the marriage of their daughter, Andrea, to Richard Gilbert on May 16, 2015.

Birth Announcements (*Future TGMI Graduates*)

Lisa Pugh (Class of 2005) and Glen Pugh (Class of 2012) are celebrating the birth of their fifth grandchild. Caleb Maxton Pugh was born December 12, 2014, weighing 9 lbs 5 oz., 21 inches long.



Kyle Hunter's (Class of 2014) third son, Landon Turner Hunter, was born on February 10, 2015.

Other Announcements



Kim Stinson (Class of 2009) graduated from Nashville School of Law on May 23, 2015.



Bruce Balcom's (Class of 2013) daughter, Rowan, graduated from high school this year. Rowan is also joining Carolina Crown, a world class drum corps, this summer. She is in the color guard for the drum corps and will be busy traveling all summer competing.



THP Citizens' Academy-Class of 2015



Class of 2015 THP Citizens' Academy Graduation was held on May 12th. TGMI Alumni who graduated from the academy include: Julie Nichols (Class of 2013), Nneka Norman-Gordon (Class of 2012), and Michelle M. Smith (Class of 2013).

THP Citizens' Academy is 30 hours of training that helps to develop an understanding of the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Participants learned about investigations, homeland security and special operations.



A few of the moments that will linger in our memories forever are the shooting and driving simulators, the CSI lab in Oak Ridge, the behind the scenes tour of the Governor's Mansion, and the tactical and K-9 presentations.



TGMI Alumni Selected for 2015 TBI Citizens' Academy

TBI's Citizens' Academy was designed five years ago to provide a better understanding and awareness of TBI in the community. Over the course of the four-week academy, participants learn about criminal and drug investigations, forensic services, and information systems. Participants also get to work a mock crime scene and have a Saturday morning firearms training session at the TN Law Enforcement Training Academy. TBI received four times



the number of applications than there were spots available for this incredible experience! And just like the TGMI Alumni association, the TBI Citizens' Academy has an Alumni

Association where alumni are provided further educational opportunities. This year's class included TGMI alumni Susan Burdette, Jason Conner, Melinda Crutchfield, Gwendolyn Coffee, and Antonio Meeks. They are pictured with Director Mark Gwyn and Special Agent in Charge Kimberly Harmon of TBI's Training Division at graduation on May 19th.



A Jamaican mission trip took place between March 28th and April 4th, 2015. We flew from Nashville to Montego Bay, Jamaica then drove about an hour and a half to Ocho Rios. Ocho Rios is a town in the parish of Saint Ann on the north coast of Jamaica. Although there are resorts, modern development and some wealth interspersed across Ocho Rios and other parts of Jamaica, there is also a lot of poverty and resulting homelessness, some of which have been served by the couple who attends my church in Hendersonville, TN.

Serving Abroad

Joseph Waldrum (Class of 2014)

The couple has been inviting me to come there over the past couple of years. They are in their 70's and have been serving in Ocho Rios for about 25 years. They primarily feed between 50 to 70 individuals by cooking meals, putting them on a rickety cart and distributing to some of the homeless people in Ocho Rios.

Additionally, the couple holds church services, consisting of songs and the gospel message at a bus stop on Sundays, after which the homeless are fed.

"Three fathers, including myself with their daughters made the trip to help with the efforts."

The couple heads up various efforts and projects, like repairing damaged roofs after storms, building rudimentary living quarters for needy individuals and in general, caring for those less fortunate than themselves.

Three fathers, including myself with their daughters made the trip to help with the efforts. It rained all but one of the days that we were there. Our daughters walked along the streets of Ocho Rios distributing meals, while the fathers worked on



completing the house.

We put on the roof, the doors, and the interior walls, built the deck and set the foundation for the water tank. Other groups completed work up and to the point we arrived.



Volunteering



Second Harvest Nights

Two energetic groups of volunteers have participated in food box assembly at Second Harvest Food Bank. If you need a workout and want to give back, volunteer at one of these great events! (Plus earn Black Belt external service points as well!)

St. Jude Country Music Marathon, Half Marathon & 5K April 25, 2015

On a wet, rainy Saturday morning, five brave volunteers participated in the Country Music Marathon. This year, TGMI was stationed at the very last water station. Michelle Smith volunteered at registration on Thursday and rubbed elbows with some of ABC's show *Nashville*. Volunteering is fun! (Julie Nichols completed the 5K! Run Julie! Run!)



Elvin Woodruff, Vicky Hutchings, Michelle Hudson, Cynthia Stewart, Melissa Wiseman.



In Case You Missed It...

Nashville Predators Game Nights

Several TGMI alumni attended two different Predators games this past season. Before one of the games, the President of the Predators, Sean Henry, gave a talk regarding leadership. In the future, look out for information regarding more Nashville Predators game nights!





Congratulations TGMI Class of 2015!!

- Bill Avant** Environment and Conservation
- Stacy Balthrop** TN Regulatory Authority
- Vinay Bezawada** Human Services
- Carrie Blair** General Services
- Brenda Bright** Correction
- Steve Chester** Human Resources
- Roger Clark** TRICOR
- LaTonja Coates** Transportation
- Meghan Curran** Education
- Leah Eldridge** TACIR
- Julia Fielding** Correction
- Michael Flanery** Children's Services
- Dawn Frazier** Bureau of TennCare
- Kenneth Guthrie** Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Michelle Hamblin** Children's Services
- Shannon Hardin** Human Resources
- Jeffrey Hayes** Human Services
- Brian Hughes** Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Stephanie Jackson** Revenue
- Jason Locke** TN Bureau of Investigation
- Crystal Lysinger** Military
- Jay McClellan** TN Wildlife Resources Agency
- Richard O'Bryan** Board of Parole
- Damon Pence** Safety and Homeland Security
- Maryann Rainey** TN Higher Education Commission



- Michael Ross** Tourist Development
- Jason Seay** TN Student Assistance Corporation
- Toni Shaw** TN Housing Development Agency
- Mike Sisk** Financial Institutions
- Misty Surine** Labor and Workforce Development
- Dean Tays** Finance and Administration
- Judy Tribble** Economic and Community Development
- Matthew Wakefield** Commerce and Insurance
- Shelley Walker** Health
- Michael Welch** Transportation
- Linda Wesson** Comptroller of the Treasury

2015 TGMI Class Officers

- President (steering)** - Jason Seay
- Vice President** - Jay McClellan
- Steering** - Shelley Walker
- Reporter** - Michelle Hamblin
- Ambassador of Great Britain** - Michael Ross

Graduation for the TGMI Class of 2015 will be held on August 10th from 1-4 at the Old Supreme Court Chambers in Nashville.



TGMI alumni pose for a picture for the Governor's "Thumbs Down to Texting and Driving" campaign.

The first Lunch and Learn of 2015 was in April. As we all know, distracted driving is a growing problem and April was Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Safety Education Captain, Tony Barham, of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, spoke to us regarding distracted driving and what we can do to end it.

Retirement Lunch and Learns were conducted in May, in both Knoxville and Arlington, and were hosted by

Lunch and Learns

Caira Garcia (Class of 2013) and Vickey Coleman (Class of 2012).

The TGMI Steering Committee and the Education Development Subcommittee hosted a Lunch and Learn event on June 25th for TGMI, TGEI and LEAD TN alumni. A good crowd gathered in the James K. Polk Building in downtown Nashville and had the privilege of engaging with two fabulous speakers. Jim Shulman, Executive Director for the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, discussed "End of Life Planning". John Allen, Director of the Behavioral Health Program for the State Group Insurance and TGMI Class of 2009 graduate, talked about "Stress Management". While you might think those two topics sound a



little "heavy," you had to be there to know that both speakers approached the subject matter with sensitivity and some good humor. Based on feedback received, participants are appreciating continued opportunities to expand their knowledge and finding the Lunch and Learn presentations to be very helpful. Thanks to everyone who attended or otherwise contributed to the success of the June Lunch and Learn. If you missed this one, we hope to see you at a future event!



Meat vs. Vegetables

Tim Beck (Class of 2002)

"Humor is as Humor does."

I am a vegetarian. Have been for years. I don't eat meat except for beef, pork, chicken, fish and veal whenever I can get it, but other than these exceptions, I do not eat meat. Carnivore against herbivore, herbivore against carnivore, the war has raged as far back as mankind can remember. Can't we all just get along?

Before I go any further please understand that I am NOT against vegetarians. I would never cast aspersions on any person or group simply due to their eating habits. I simply want to make the case for meat. Meat has been so put upon these past 30 years I feel it needed a voice. One that can state its case simply and without a whole lot of detail. I am that voice.

The case for meat. Meats love their mothers. Meats will call their mothers frequently whether with a 'moo', 'baa' or 'oink'. Vegetables never call their mothers. They don't even send a card.

Animals eat meats. Take your dog for example. He's a meat eater. He's an animal. He's considered man's best friend which no one denies. Would you let your best friend down?

Meats are superior and I al-

ways strive for the best. Face it, meats (in their former lives) eat vegetables, I eat meats. Survival of the fittest. Eating meat is required by the code of the 'Circle of Life'. Haven't you ever seen *The Lion King*?

All meats taste good. All of them. I can't say that about vegetables. Even vegetarians have vegetables they don't like and won't eat. Asparagus, ugh! No thanks. You can pass me that chicken though. If meats didn't want to be eaten they should have developed the ability to taste like asparagus.

Why do I have teeth? Chewy vegetables are a whole 'nother story.

My parents and their parents before them ate meats. Are you saying my Granny and Grampa were wrong?

Meats don't slime. I'm only gonna mention this once and we will never speak of it again. Boiled okra. If we don't eat meat the entire bun business would cease to exist. Think of the companies closing, the lost jobs and wages. The 'fast food' industry would be devastated. The blow to the economy would be enormous. I eat meat to support the American worker. It's my patriotic duty. God bless America!

Meats provide a challenge.

How am I gonna cook it? Do I put it on the grill? Roast it? Broil it? Cut it into strips? Cubes? Stir fry it? Jeez, you can pull vegetables right out of the ground or off the plant and eat 'em. No ceremony, no preparation. Just doesn't seem right somehow.

And finally, meats are committed. They give their all where vegetables simply participate. When you sit down to eat a hardy breakfast of eggs, bacon and hash-brown potatoes, the potato is only participating in the meal. The pig was committed. If there's one thing I've learned to admire in life, it's true commitment. What kind of despicable cad would I be to deny one who's given their all?



"Our own Tim Beck is an active Humor Blogger, a great story teller, and a published author. This is a story he wrote that may make some folks scratch their heads, and make others laugh out loud. But as momma used to say, "Humor is as Humor does."



On April 8, 2015, Melvin Jones, Jr., Director of Internal Audit & Consulting Services for the Department of Revenue had the awesome opportunity to present to the “Essentially Leadership” group at the Department of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (DIDD). He had an enlightening experience sharing a message on the topic, “Pay It Forward.” It was very evident that the Leaders that attended are intent on doing a good job and on maintaining continuous improvement. We should all be fortunate enough to have leaders in our department that encourage growth and personal and professional improvement. Melvin sends a big shout out to our fabulous Vice Chair Michelle Smith, who was in attendance. The poem below was one shared with the event sponsor, under the title, “Super This Day.” It is dedicated to all of the great “Super” state leaders that strap on their cape everyday to serve the people of Tennessee.

SORRY, BUT I MUST FLY

*One day I will walk that gauntlet
To a place of human rest
When I can take off this cape and colors
And take this “S” from my chest
I will walk and talk like mortals
Be called by my real name
Like Melvin or David or Margo
Or maybe something that sounds the same
So many days I’ve wavered
Just above you in the sky
Waiting there in earnest
For that tear to pass from my eye
I sometimes wait in frozen stratos
Way up where you cannot see
Because if you saw me breaking
You might think less of me
I call and you do not hear me calling
You only see the feats of strength
But some days I need your comfort
Because I need a solace that’s heaven sent*

*But each time I think, “It’s over.”
Maybe I will this day retire
I wake up to yellow sun above me
And I am called back by that burning fire
I have a given purpose
I have duties there on the ground
There is a world that needs assistance
And I cannot let them down
But some days I seek calmer moments
Tender time with kids and wife
But that is not the walk I chose in the beginning
I elected to give this cause my life
Up in the heavens the light is brilliant
So beautiful it can make you cry
But there is much work left for the willing
I am sorry, but I must fly...*

*Melvin Jones, Jr., ©
May 16, 2014; edited 4.9.15*

Mark Your Calendars!!

- August 14**, Lunch and Learn, Graham Thomas from tnAchieves
- October 3**, TGMI Alumni Picnic, Long Hunter State Park
- October 21**, TGL Conference, Curb Center/Belmont University
- December 11**, TGMI Annual Meeting and Holiday Breakfast, Ellington Agricultural Center



Toastmasters Reminder

TGL Toastmasters meetings are held each Friday from 11:30 to 12:30 in the TN Tower, 3rd Floor conference center, room 253N. Come visit a meeting any time with no obligation to speak and you get Black Belt Leadership Points for attending! The club is open to any TGEI, TGMI or LEAD Alumni. If you would like to learn more about Toastmasters the district website is: <http://4310000.toastmastersclubs.org>

Check us out on the web...
<http://tn.gov/hr/article/tgmi>



Michelle Smith
(Class of 2013)



Julie Nichols
(Class of 2013)

*If you would like to submit ideas, announcements or articles for future newsletters, please send them to your class reporter or to:
Michelle.M.Smith@tn.gov
Julie.Nichols@tn.gov*