

TGM witness

January 2005

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Quarterly Newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Management Institute Alumni

2005 Election Results

The Steering Committee Elections were held for Vice-Chair and Member-at-Large for 2005.

Mike Travis ran unopposed for Vice-Chair. Brenda Apple, Melvin Jones and Patrick Merkel ran for Member-at-Large. Congratulations to Melvin Jones for winning the election and becoming our new Member-at-Large.

Graduation Class of 2004



The 2004 TGMI Class recently held their Graduation Ceremony at the Supreme Court Chambers in the State Capitol. The event was well attended by family, friends, alumni and co-workers.



2005 TGMI Steering Committee

Chairperson

Chuck Holland
Class of 2000

Vice-Chairperson

Mike Travis
Class of 2002

Past Chairperson

Donna Duarte
Class of 2001

Class of 2004

Saya Qualls
Susan Gullette

Class of 2003

Julie Perrey
Marty Toth

At-Large

Melvin Jones
Class of 2002

Ex-Officio

Cindy Saladin
Class of 2000

Newsletter Editor

Mike Travis

Graphic Designer

Michelle Jackson

TGI 2004 Fall Conference



Governor Phil Bredesen received a standing ovation from the TGEI and TGMI alumni after his remarks at the TGI 2004 Fall Conference on Tuesday, October 26 at the Metropolitan Nashville Public Library. The Conference theme was “Driving the Leadership Highway”. In keeping with that theme, the Governor spoke to the group about his own leadership, doing the right thing, and about his passion for tackling issues that make a difference in the lives of Tennesseans. After his remarks, he addressed questions from the audience.

In addition to Governor Bredesen, the alumni heard from several guest speakers in regard to the importance of leadership. Speakers included Denny King, U. S. Marshall, Jim Neeley, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Quenton White, Commissioner of the Department of Correction, and Loren Chumley, Commissioner of the Department of Revenue. Randy Camp, Commissioner of the Department of Personnel shared his vision of the TGI Endowment and introduced the TGI Endowment Advisory

Committee. Patricia Weiland, Executive Director of TRICOR, communicated TRICOR’s initiative to establish an on-line TGEI and TGMI Memorabilia shop that will allow alumni to order TGEI/TGMI items.

About 230 alumni attended this year’s event. Many thanks to the TGI Conference Committee for a great job!

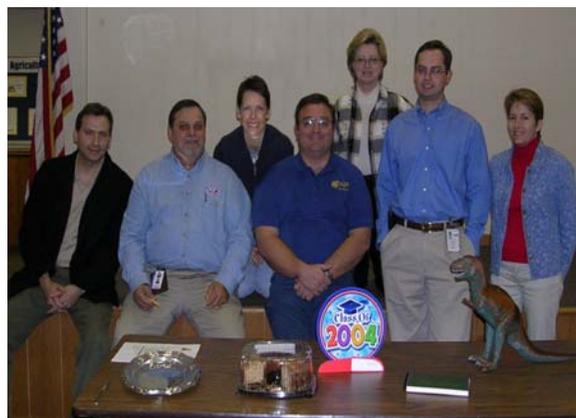


Class of 2000 Outing at Tazza Restaurant



The Class of 2000 met a TAZZA on Church Street on September 22, 2004. Pictured are Cindy Saladin, Harlan Goan, Susan Irby, Chuck Holland, Kathy Hartman, Nancy Patterson, Cindy Wilson, and Willie Shelton.

Class of 2004 Reunion



On November 19, 2004, members of the class of 2004 met at Ellington Ag Center for lunch. Those that could make it enjoyed good fun and fellowship. Class mascot, Big Mo, was also in attendance.

Community Service at Radnor Lake

On Saturday October 23, 2004, Marty Toth, Chuck Holland, and Brenda Apple worked at Radnor Lake State Park. This was National Make a Difference Day. They volunteered to work with a local boy scout troop. Corey Suisinger, a Life Scout, is working on his Eagle Scout project. He chose to build several fences at the visitor's center parking lot. The fences will keep cars on the pavement and prevent visitors from parking on the plants next to the road.

Chuck, Marty and Brenda worked with Ranger Josh and hauled three truckloads of about sixty-five posts and sixty-five rails from the staging area to the construction site. This saved the boy scouts a lot of time and energy. The post holes were dug by the hydraulic auger on Ranger Josh's tractor. While they were at the staging area, Ranger Josh showed them the native birds that the park keeps to show to children during their visit to the park. They have a red-tail hawk and several owls.

Everyone worked together to dry stack the posts and rails to make sure everything fit properly. The next steps were to tamp down the holes, put the posts and rails back in place and pour Quik-Krete around the posts (The TGMI'ers had to leave before the concrete was poured).

Our TGMI classmates were able to share with Corey's mom and dad about the purpose of TGMI. They were very grateful that state employees would take the time to help their son achieve his goal to become an Eagle Scout.

After leaving the park, Chuck, Marty and Brenda had a picnic at Deerwood Park and Arboretum in Brentwood.

Chuck Holland, Class of 2000

Message from Corey:



“My name is Corey Guisinger. I am 15 years old and currently a Life Scout working towards my Eagle. I hope to complete all requirements and earn my Eagle this Spring. I am with Boy Scout Troop 4 here in Brentwood.

We worked four Saturdays at Radnor Lake (the Saturday you worked was the first of four) and completed the project on Saturday, November 13. With the help of 36 volunteers we completed the project in a total of 375 man hours. My project consisted of installing approximately 1100 feet of fence. The intention of the project was to help protect the wildlife by preventing guests from parking in no parking areas.

I am very proud of this project and again I appreciate your help.”

TGMI Holiday Breakfast

The TGMI Holiday Breakfast was held on December 11, 2004 in the Ed Jones Auditorium at the Ellington Agriculture Center. Fifty-three alumni attended from all five classes: Class of 2000 with 10 members; Class of 2001 with 8 members; Class of 2002 with 15 members; Class of 2003 with 10 members, and Class of 2004 with 10 members. The Department of Personnel provided pictures of each graduating class. Don King provided the entertainment. Many departments provided door prizes, included footballs signed by the Tennessee Titans, and hockey sticks signed by the Nashville Predators. A business meeting was held to approve changes to the TGMI By-Laws.



Holiday Breakfast Charity

This year's charity was Reconciliation Ministries. We raised over \$500.00 and bought toys and gifts for two families with four children. The children in these families have a parent in prison. Julie Perrey received a very nice letter from Reconciliation Ministries thanking TGMI for your generosity.



Mark your calendar for upcoming events

Dates for Class of 2005



Tennessee Government Management
Institute
Class of 2005

University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Week 1 – June 12-17, 2005
Week 2 – July 10-15, 2005

2001 Class Notes

We have two retired TGMers in 2004 – Steve Meinbreese and John Sparks. Steve who served loyally in the Department of Human Services retired in June and John who left the Department of Children's Services in early December.

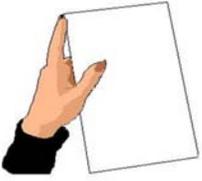
2003 Class Notes

Lisa Knight was promoted to Assistant Director of the Driver License Issuance division of the Department of Safety on September 11, 2004.

Scott Pierce was recently promoted to Budget Director at the Bureau of TennCare.

Cathy Green is team leader for a new grant project the Department of Health is participating in with two state hospitals, Centennial & UT Knoxville. This project's goal is to improve the culture of patient safety and is sponsored by the Agency on Health Research and Quality and the VA Health Systems. Way to go Cathy!

She also has plans for a holiday cruise between Christmas and New Year to visit several eastern Caribbean islands. Wish we could all go!



Donna's Comments

It has been a great ride, these past two years.

It has been an honor serving as Vice Chair and then this year as Chairperson. TGMI has grown to 150 members. There are several standing subcommittees now – Hospitality, Newsletter, and Community Service. TGMI has a bank account, with money and two signatures required. The By-Laws have been updated and will carry the membership forward. The new Steering Committee is in place and ready to serve. In my opinion, everything is just chugging along.

How about with you? Have you used TGMI to its fullest? Is TGMI still serving you?

At our Holiday Breakfast we recognized members for their service to TGMI during 2004. We asked those who served to stand up and it seemed like everyone in the room was standing up. We recognized the first class of TGMI – the class of 2000, the ones who laid the groundwork for classes to come. We recognized the different subcommittees and their members; and even the folks who made breakfast. TGMI is not one person's responsibility. TGMI is 150 members and it needs all of us to be successful. There is no small way to serve, because everything you do in a committee or at a networking session is big and necessary. Ask Cindy Saladin. She knows what it takes to put on a Fall Conference or to coordinate a lunch speaker at Fall Creek Falls or even to serve on a Newsletter Committee. She knows that it is not a DOP responsibility, not a Cindy Saladin responsibility. It is TGMI responsibility.

How can you use TGMI to its fullest? Recruit, recruit, recruit. Find new members within your ranks. Network, network, network. Meet others through TGMI's professional network ability. Share, share, share. Share your time, talents, and friendship with other TGMI members. If you get an opportunity to volunteer, do so. If you have a chance to go to a hastily called lunch, be there. If you want to host a Brown Bag at your Department, call Julie Perrey. That is the secret of getting what you want out of TGMI. The more you insert yourself, the more you get out of it.

In my case, I have had the pleasure of meeting so many new TGMI members. I attended their second weeks at Montgomery Bell and Fall Creek Falls. (They eat the same stuff we did – chicken and broccoli.) They did exciting activities, although nothing beats shocking fish with the TWRA after lunch. I have developed relationships with members in classes other than my own. These folks have helped me out when I needed it. I've met people throughout state government that I would have never met just at THDA. And all this happened just because I volunteered in an activity or project through TGMI.

Chuck Holland has lots of ideas for the next year. He wants to provide opportunities for leadership training, networking, and professional development. But it will take more than Chuck. It will take all of us, doing for one small thing. Believe me, the rewards are wonderful.

It has been great, the past two years. Thank you for letting me share myself with you. It has been an honor to serve and the reward has been incredible. To the Class of 2001, I hope I made you proud. You were my inspiration.

Adjust the sail-
Donna

Spotlight Articles

**Michael A. Travis, Sr.
&
Melvin Jones, Jr.**

*New Vice-Chairperson
Michael A. Travis, Sr., of
course called “Mike” or
sometimes “Big Mike.”*



Mike is an Accounting Manager for Finance & Administration – Billing Services and is responsible for payments to vendors and billing to state agencies for all voice related services, and data related services. Last year his unit billed out in excess of \$160,000,000.00 dollars for these services. Mike has 18 years of State service. He received

an Associate of Arts Degree from Rochester College, and his

Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Oklahoma Christian University. Mike has been married to Karin for 16 wonderful years, and has two sons: Daniel – 26, and Michael Jr. – 15. He has a Westie named Tuff-E-Nuff or Tuffy for short, his bark is the toughest part of him. Mike works with community youth sports activities and has participated as Coach, Umpire, and Director of Officials. He spent 12 years working as an umpire for baseball and softball for both high school and college games. Other activities include working with church youth activities, and enjoying family outings, travel, and friends. Speaking of travel, Mike enjoys a good round of golf, and is planning a four-day golf trip with friends in September. He would also love to attend the NCAA College World Series in Omaha. He was born in Dickson, but currently resides in White House. His most memorable TGMI experience is “working through all the different scenarios with my classmates at different times. Acquiring insight into each of them and realizing my own strengths and weakness within the group.” His wish for new TGMI members is “To learn the power of Networking, not only with their class, but also with the entire Alumni Association. Allowing them the possibilities to learn and grow with all agencies in the State.” When asked what he wishes he could be doing, Mike says, “Spending time traveling visiting historical sites. I’ve grown to have a real love for history and learning the past.”

*Spotlight on new At-Large Member Melvin Jones, Jr.;
also known as “Mel.”*



Melvin is the Director of Internal Audit & Consulting Services in the Department of Revenue. He manages the department’s Internal Audit and Disclosure Office operations; conducts audit and internal control reviews, reviews financial integrity and the IRS Federal State Exchange Program. He has twenty years of state services in January 2005. Mel received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from University of Tennessee at Martin. He has one son, Chris, who is a seventeen year-old junior at Hunters Lane High School in Madison. His community activities include working and speaking at his church. Melvin enjoys entertaining at his home, spending time at Old Hickory Lake and being a member of the Association of Government Accountants and the Institute for Internal Auditors. He also enjoys lifting weights and throwing the ball with his son. Melvin was born in San Diego, California and currently makes Nashville his home. But “my heart is in Millington, Tennessee where I grew up and went to high school.” Melvin says that he is a little shy. His most

memorable TGMI experience is “Three of the top ten—Being lifted and passed through the spider web by my teammates during outdoor activities was awesome, as was flying on the KC-135 refueling mission and visiting Brushy Mountain State Prison.” His wish for new TGMI members is: “That they have a wonderful experience being a part of TGMI and that they soak up every drop of what this program really is; the training, the camaraderie, the networking, all of its life changing interactions.” When asked what he wishes he could be doing, Melvin says, “Making others wishes come true...and I would love to be making a living as a writer.”

Heaven on Earth

*Up in the mountains without a care,
The wind blows gently through my hair.
The sky is clear with stars so bright,
The moon is full this August night.
A runnin' rabbit just passed by me,
The wise old owl up in the tree.
Atop the bluff he sits so high,
The mighty hawk with his keen eye.
And on a ridge I see a deer,
That scurried off as I came near.
The spotted bass they look so fond,
As they swim so gracefully through the pond.
The squirrels they play from tree to tree,
Then stop awhile to stare at me.
And to my right I see a gleam,
The light from a star shines off the stream.
A more beautiful place I have not seen,
It feels like Heaven or so it seems.
As I sit and wonder where I could be,
Well that's when I realize its Tennessee.*

*By
M. R. Toth*