



TGMI NEWS

Tennessee Government Management Institute Newsletter

2014 Volume 10, Issue 2

Message From the Chair

I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to serve you all as the Chair of TGMI for a year and a half. As I was told to expect, the time did fly by as your representative. I would like to share some accomplishments from the TGMI Steering Committee for this period of time that we should all be most proud of:

- TGMI facilitated the creation of a Statewide Leadership Book Club, which has now been broadened to several state agencies
- TGMI facilitated the creation of a Statewide Leadership Toastmasters Club, which begins in January 2015. (If you would still like to join, contact me)
- TGMI steering committee developed a manual for all TGMI Procedures.

I do not want to steal the opportunity for each of the Subcommittee Chairs to share each of their individual accomplishments for this year in their own articles, however I would simply like to say thank you so very much to each of the Steering Committee members that gave their time to make all of our accomplishments happen in 2014. We have had some great opportunities this year for alumni to gather together to serve, learn, socialize and give of their time to the community. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

We have already booked some great events for 2015 that I hope you are all looking forward to participating in, such as: a Golf tournament to be coordinated by Lauren Hill, a Softball tournament to be coordinated by Terry Malone and a Predators Game to be coordinated by Bruce Balcom.

The time as TGMI chair has been very personally rewarding to me. I graduated from TGMI in 2008 and accepted the nomination in 2011 to go on the ballot as 2012 Vice Chair. I would like to encourage each of you to remember that no matter how long it has been since you graduated you are always an alumni of TGMI and as long as you are a State employee, you can serve on the Steering Committee. Now that we have a Statewide Leadership Black Belt Program, serving on the TGMI Steering Committee is a great way to earn those points to accomplish your Black Belt!

Again, it has been my pleasure and my honor to serve with you. I wish a Very Happy 2015 New Year to all of you and your families!!

TGMI Mission Statement:

*Inspiring Tennessee's
managers toward
dynamic leadership. -*

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SUB-COMMITTEE

NEWS

Business Events Subcommittee Highlights of 2014

Greg Spradley (Class of 2009); Michelle M. Smith (Class of 2013) Sub-Committee Chairs

The Business Events Committee has fulfilled its duties this year of assisting with TGMI 2014 Orientation, hosting a picnic for the current class at Montgomery Bell State Park on May 8th, and meeting with the Class of 2014 during Week 2 in Knoxville on June 12th to discuss class elections. The Committee has also worked diligently to plan and carry out the TGMI Annual Holiday Gathering and Business Meeting, along with a very dedicated Holiday Gathering Planning Committee consisting of Michelle Smith, Julie Johnson, Nneka Norman-Gordon, Lauren Hill, Vicky Hutchings, Sherree Hall-Crowder, Terry Malone, Tina Fox, our illustrious Steering Committee Chair April Romero, and our fabulous decorating coordinator, Linda Cone. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity.



Social Events Subcommittee Highlights of 2014

Bruce Balcom (Class of 2013) Sub-Committee Chair

Though I accepted this role late in the year, I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Sub-Committee Chair for the Social Events Committee. Looking back at the year, events included: a Sounds game, a University of Tennessee football game and an after-hours event at the TGL Annual Conference hosted at Bar Louie. On January 27th, we look forward to seeing a great crowd at the Predators game night.



Education Development Subcommittee Highlights of 2014

Susan Burdette (Class of 2008-I) Sub-Committee Chair

Sub-Committee Members: Bruce Balcom (Class of 2013), Richard Kennedy (Class of 2005), Mehran Mostajir (Class of 2009), Julie Perrey (Class of 2003), Stephen Reksten (Class of 2008-I)



The Education Development Committee has had a busy year of Lunch and Learns and Career Days.

Lunch and Learn topics were based on feedback from the alumni survey at the end of last year and related speaker opportunity. The first and most popular Lunch and Learn was March 31st on "How to Plan for your Retirement." A representative from TN Consolidated Retirement Services discussed the factors for determining the benefits and the requirements of the pension plan. A representative from Great West Retirement Services discussed 401(k) and 457 deferred compensation plans. And recently retired TGMI alumnus Terry Poff gave her personal lessons learned upon retiring from the state. Due to the number of RSVPs being greater than space available, an encore presentation was held on April 24. For more retirement information on the state pension plan and deferred savings plan, go to: <http://www.treasury.tn.gov/tcrs/index.html> and <https://www.gwrs.com/login.do>

SUB-COMMITTEE

NEWS

Education Development Subcommittee Highlights of 2014 (Cont)

On May 22nd TGMI joined TGEI's Lunch and Learn event to hear Chuck Shoopman from the University of Tennessee's Public Institute speak on the importance of leadership development in the public sector. What is leadership development? It is a process or path that we choose. A couple of key takeaways from this meeting were: Change is constant and communication is critical.

On July 10th Special Agent Kimberly Harmon with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) provided alumni with an overview of the TBI's services and stories about their training and investigations. Did you know the TBI was created as a resource for local law enforcement because of a crime for which the local authorities were not properly equipped or trained to handle? Did you know certain crimes must be reported to the TBI? Thank you Kimberly for sharing interesting information about the TBI!

On September 16th Michael Cole, Bicentennial Park Manager, provided alumni a guided tour of the Bicentennial Mall and its representation of TN history. Did you know that the gold stars in the World War II Memorial section represent the 5,000 Tennessee lives lost in the war? Did you know there is a Zero milestone at the James Robertson Parkway side of the Mall from which distances on our state highways are measured? Thank you Michael for the insightful tour!



Do you have a subject you would like to learn more about over lunch that would fulfill the TGMI mission of inspiring dynamic leadership and or benefit TGMI alumni professionally or personally? Are you a subject matter expert in an area that would benefit alumni and are willing to present at a Lunch and Learn? Let us know by sending an email to Susan.Burdette@tn.gov!



TGMI's Alumni Association has a speaker's bureau with alumni who volunteer to attend school career events and promote careers in state government. There has to be more interesting and diverse careers in the State of TN than any other employer in the state. Besides the usual business functions, we have lawyers, law and safety officers, doctors, nurses, educators, and engineers just to name a few professions. We need to share that the state has these employment opportunities with the next generation. On April 24th two

Board of Parole officers attended a career day in Regan, TN upon the HS counselor's request for us to again participate in their career day. Thanks to TGMI alumni James Beard's staff for their time with Regan HS students. On November 13th, TGMI alumni attended Williamson County and Franklin Special School District's Career Exploration Day. If you would like to volunteer to attend career fairs next year, let us know.

And although it's the Leadership Council's purview rather than this committee's, we hope everyone attended the Annual Leadership Conference at Belmont on October 24th. There's no better way to continue your TGMI education and experience as well as to reconnect with your classmates than to attend the annual Leadership Conference. Make plans to be there next year and keep plugged in with your TGMI Alumni Association until then!



SUB-COMMITTEE

NEWS

Communications Sub-Committee Highlights of 2014

Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2012) Sub-Committee Chair

This Year saw the advent of the TGMI FaceBook page designed solely for Alumni. Set as a closed group (requires approval by an administrator to join and view), this FaceBook group provides an additional communication method for keeping Alumni informed of upcoming events and posting event pictures from past events. In addition, it is a great place to share your ideas and thoughts with other TGMI Alumni.

To join, after logging in, simply search for TGMI in the Search bar located at the top right of the FaceBook page. Go to the group and click 'Join Group' in the top-right corner. Because this is a closed group, a group administrator will approve your request. If you are not a member of FaceBook, you will need to set up an account. Go to <http://www.facebook.com> and follow the instructions on setting up a new account. Once completed, follow the instructions above for requesting access to the group. Contact Vicky Hutchings (vicky.hutchings@tn.gov) or Michelle Smith (michelle.m.smith@tn.gov) for additional information.



Treasurers Annual Report (As of December 5, 2014)

Financial Activity Report

- Current Balance \$943.99
-

Other

- Check 1054—Southern Trophy \$82.81
 - Money collected by Eventbrite will be deposited into the TGMI Alumni Association checking account on December 10th
-



YOU ARE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

A Poem by:

Melvin Jones, Jr., ©, 12.1.2014
Son of Melvin Jones, Sr., USN (Ret.) and
Loretta Swain Jones

Over land and over oceans
Over hills and over seas
Our soldiers have fought in gallant
To keep this country free
From enemies foreign and domestic
From dangers we may not see
They stand ever valiant
That we continue as, "The Land of the
Free!"
Red, White, and Blue, Francis Scott Key
saw still waiving
Brave and Proud, Strong and True
The flag stood for a nation unrelenting
The United States of America, a home for
me and you
A land that bore many sorrows
This "Land where our fathers died"
Land of many victories
This "Land of the pilgrim's pride"

Land where Princes once rode proudly
Head dress waving astride noble steed
Land where men once bound in chains
Labeled hard and by grace were freed
"This land is your land; this land is my land"
A land for the great and for the small
This flag flies as perfect reminder
That America has faithfully welcomed one
and all
Hand upon your chest, as you pledge alle-
giance
Your heart filled with hope and pride
You are "America the Beautiful!"
Her greatness you hold deep inside

Class News

Life's Blessings Come in Small Packages

Elijah Harrison-Brown , grandson of Angela Harrison (Class of 2011), was a year old on Nov 4, 2014! He is the love of her life!



Retirement

Sara Hollowell (Class of 2011) retired on Friday, November 7th after 34 years of loyal service to the State of Tennessee. She is always a ray of sunshine for her classmates and we wish Sara much success in her new endeavors.



Double Masters - Awesome Achievement!

On December 14, 2014 Melissa E. Hall, daughter of Floyd J. Hall (Class of 2000) received her second Masters degree—a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from the University of Memphis. Melissa received her BS Degree in 2009 from Tennessee State University and her first MBA Degree in 2012 from Strayer University.



TGMI Alumni part of Graduating TGEI Class of 2014

Congratulations to the following TGMI Alumni who were members of the TGEI Class of 2014:

Jimmy Bivens (Class of 2009), Nicholas Brindle (Class of 2013)
Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2012), Amanda Jowers (Class of 2012)
Sheila Marchman (Class of 2005); Alan Whittington (Class of 2003)



THE CLASS of 2002

The Class of 2002 continues to work and do those things that make TGMI so wonderful. President Mike Travis continues to serve as the Historian, and facilitates the annual Officer elections for our organization. Melvin Jones, Jr. is a member with Mike and all former Chairs of the Advisory Committee that met recently with our current Chair April Romero, who is doing a wonderful job. Members of the class continue to attend functions and represent the cause of sound and engaged leadership. Many of the members have left state government, and are working to make a difference at institutions like Nashville Metropolitan Government, Vanderbilt University, and also in their own entrepreneurial enterprises. We also have a number of retirees, and once again we thank them for their honorable and valued service to State Government and to the people who are Tennessee.

Class News (continued)

The Class of 2008-I challenges all classes to become members of the Leadership Black Belt Program!

Susan Burdette

Curtis Clan

Eric Fowlie

Mary Griffin

Trish Holliday

Terry Malone

Stephen Reksten

April Romero

Cynthia Stewart

Cyndi Taylor



Congratulations Cynthia Stewart for being elected 2015-2016 TGMI Steering Committee Member-at-Large



Congratulations Stephen Reksten & Eric Fowlie on being accepted to LEAD TN Alliance 6!!



Meet Lauren Lee Shaw, Stephen's niece, born 8/4/2014 in Chantilly, Virginia. She is 6.1 lbs and 19.25 inches long. She decided she wanted to come out and play early (her due date was Labor Day). Mom and baby (and Dad) are doing well.



Food For Thought

Mark Twain said: "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see". In a world of continual change and uncertainty, there are very few things in life that can provide a moment of peace and solace like an act of kindness. Whether you are the person providing or receiving, a sense of rightness is achieved each time kindness is encountered.

In many of the leadership books you will read, kindness is generally not a word associated with great leaders. You will hear leaders described as driven, focused, dynamic, courageous, and compassionate but rarely is "generosity of spirit" associated with leadership.

However, like everything there is always an exception. In the book, "How did you do it, Truett?" the founder of Chick-fil-A, S. Truett Cathy, is described as a man driven, not by profit, but by a focus on keeping his priorities in order. Cathy stated that one should 'climb with care and confidence and never lose a customer'. His corporate purpose statement: To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A. Cathy considered people more important than profit and built his business on kindness, generosity and a philosophy of servant leadership.

Leslie Nolin, in her article titled 'The Business of Kindness' provides insight into the character traits that create a kinder workplace. A few:

Authenticity: honor who you are. As an authentic person you are genuine and cultivate awareness of your own behaviors, knowing what you value and living life on purpose.

Attitude: exercise your power to choose. When you see someone with a great attitude, you know it. People with a great attitude approach life with curiosity and humor.

Resilience: develop strong roots to weather change. As a resilient person you have strong reserves of inner and outer strength.

Excellence: commit to grow your potential. Be committed to life-long learning. Choose to show up, be present, and give 100 percent of your best self to everything you do.

Trust: practice honesty with consideration. Speak your truth with honesty and integrity by demonstrating you are as good as your word.

Compassion: show you care with unconditional acceptance. Compassion is not about learning to say the perfect things at the perfect time, but rather about showing consideration for others' pain through listening and caring."

The act of kindness costs nothing but provides so much in return. As Trish Holliday stated at our Christmas Breakfast this year: "Make Service a Mantra".

Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2012)

Vice Chair

Earn your leadership every day. — Michael Jordan

The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership. —Harvey Firestone

“To add value to others, one must first value others.” - John Maxwell

“In a moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.” - Theodore Roosevelt

"It is not by muscle, speed, or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character, and judgment."--Marcus Tullius Cicero

“We don't laugh because we're happy – we're happy because we laugh.”--William James

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.
John Quincy Adams

Have You Met the TGMI Alumni in Your Agency?

A new series highlighting TGMI Alumni by agency:

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Tim Beck (2002), Todd Jordan (2007-F), Kenneth Blue (2009), Candace Williams (2010), Dale Armour (2011), Norman Tidwell (2011), Kim Harmon (2012), Mike Lyttle (2012), Jay Barnes, Jr. (2013), Kevin William (2013), Melissa Lovan (2014)

TennCare

Kevin Meeks (2007-F), Eric Fowlie (2008-I), Michell Waldrep (2008-I), Bart Leathers (2008-II), Katie Longsmith (2008-II), Eric Van Allen (2008-II), Shannon Barnhill (2009), Rew Sloan (2009), Kimberly Stinson (Mayo) (2009), Jo Ann Hicks (2010), Floyd Price (2012), Aaron Butler (2013), Marcus Tubbs (2014)

Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts

Cindy Saladin (2000), Joel Kestner (2007-F), Sharon Putnam (2012)

Secretary of State

Barry Woody (2002), Rose (Massey) Case (2003), Lisa Walker (2006)

Safety and Homeland Security

Ashley (Glover) Holland (2002), Gail Camp (2004), Lisa Knight (2004), Reaker Bass (2006), Linda Cone (2007-S), Edwin Mimms (2007-F), Shaylondia Simmons (2007-F), Cynthia Stewart (2008-I), Zachary Nixon (2011), Tonya Hunt (2012), Vicky Hutchings (2012), Alex Barger (2013), Mitzie Hinson (2013), Amy Tosh (2014)

Revenue

Wilbur Hooks (2000), Hal Jones (2000), Barbara Sampson (2001), Melvin Jones (2002), Van Mathis (2004), John Duncan (2005), Terinita Manlove (2005), Billy Trout (2006), Bernadette Welch (2007-F), Tommy Sneed (2008-I), Kathy Smith (2008-II), Patrick Cheek (2010), David Rock (2010), Penelope Webb (2010), Michelle Hudson (2014)

What a terrific year the TGMI Alumni had under the leadership of April Romero (Class of 2008-I). Many thanks to all Alumni—We wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you next year



Mark Your Calendar

2015 Steering Committee Meetings

Join us in Nashville at the Safety & Homeland Security Complex on Foster Avenue (1144 Menzler Nix Building) Conference Room B or via bridge line 866-515-1312, Code 6316788191 from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.:

- ◆ January 13
- ◆ February 10
- ◆ March 10
- ◆ April 14
- ◆ May 12
- ◆ June 9
- ◆ July 14
- ◆ August 11
- ◆ September 8
- ◆ October 13
- ◆ November 10
- ◆ December 8

The 2015 TGMI Steering Committee

Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2012)
Chair

Michelle Smith (Class of 2013)
Vice Chair

April Romero (Class of 2008-I)
Past Chair

Bruce Balcom (Class of 2013)
Past Class President

Julie Johnson (Class of 2013)
Past Class SC Member

Doug Willis (Class of 2014)
Present Class President

Lori Hedge (Class of 2014)
Present Class SC Member

Nneka Norman-Gordon (Class of 2012)
Member-at-Large

Cynthia Stewart (Class of 2008-I)
Member-at-Large

Susan Burdette (Class of 2008=I)
Member-at-Large

Tresa Jones (Class of 2009)
Member-at-Large

Trish Holliday (Class of 2008-I)
DHR Ex-Officio

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE PREDATORS

The TGMI Events Committee would like to invite you to a Predators game. Come join us on January 27th when the Predators play the Avalanche. Seats are located in the family fun zone (which provides all you can eat from a select menu and Pepsi products).

To purchase your tickets, go to: www.nashvillepredators.com/tgmi . From this site you will create an account which will be used to deliver the electronic tickets. The code to enter is 'tgmi'.

Get your tickets early as they will go fast! We look forward to seeing you there!