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Program News

The Black Belt Program committee has added three new members to its ranks: Kristi Astafan, Marcus Dodson, and Mary Moewe. We are very pleased to welcome these new TGLC members to the Vision Committee. No doubt they'll make wonderful contributions to the BBP as it grows and expands in its second year!

The BBP committee will be scheduling the spring belt award review meeting in the near future. Members who are under consideration for belt level advancement can expect to hear from the committee if there are any questions related to activities entered for this belt. Have those portfolios ready, folks!

This month's newsletter celebrates the formation of the TGL Toastmasters Club! BBP Communications Committee volunteer Jamie Burroughs tells us a little about how this came about, and her role in making it happen: "Last summer my Toastmasters club (the Tower Club) received a request from April

Romero to help start a Toastmasters club for TGMI, TGEI, and Lead graduates. I helped in the planning and preparation of a demonstration meeting to show how a Toastmasters meeting is conducted and allow potential members to ask questions. The Demonstration Meeting was held July 17, 2014, and several people were interested in joining. After enough members were committed to joining, and the groundwork laid, the TGL Toastmasters Club was officially chartered on January 1, 2015 with 31 members. I had the honor of leading/facilitating the club's first meeting as Toastmaster on Friday, January 9, 2015. During this meeting, the first full slate of officers were elected. As the club Mentor, I have attended weekly Friday club meetings and the first Executive Meeting (1/15) to help the club get started. I've provided meeting materials, tips, and answered questions. As club Mentor, I will continue to work with the club as needed for up to six months from the charter date." (See related article by April Romero on p.4 of this newsletter.)

Members News

Dr. Sherrie Artman, co-chair of the Black Belt Program committee, announced on January 29th that she had accepted an opportunity in the private sector and was leaving State government. Her farewell to the BBP was short but sweet: "I was so excited to be a part of this team and to see the vision of Black Belt Leadership manifest and grow. It has been an awesome ride!" We'll miss Sherrie's enthusiasm and guidance, and wish her the very best in her new endeavor.

BBP member Nikole Avers (below), Executive Director of Regulatory Boards, was recently sworn in as the 2014-15 president of the Association of Appraiser Regulatory Officials in Washington, DC. That's leadership on a national level!



PROGRAM STATS

Total membership: 198 Leaders from 35 different state entities as of February 20, 2015!

BBP membership is comprised of leaders from the following agencies.

36 Belts have been approved to date:

Human Resources	26	Commission on Children & Youth	3
Dept. Intellectual Disabilities	21	Correction	3
Finance and Administration	19	Economic and Community Dev	3
Environment and Conservation	15	Homeland Security	3
Human Services	10	Tennessee Regulatory Authority	3
TRICOR	10	TN Housing Development Author	3
Comptroller of the Treasury	8	Treasury Department	3
Board of Probation & Parole	7	Children's Services	2
TennCare	7	Education	2
Financial Institutions	6	Mental Health	2
General Services	5	Wildlife Resources	2
Safety	5	Agriculture	1
Transportation	5	Council on Developmental Disabilities	1
Commerce and Insurance	4	Higher Education	1
Health	4	Human Rights Commission	1
Labor & Workforce Development	4	Secretary of State	1
Revenue	4	TBI	1
Advis Comm Intergov Relations	3	Total	198

Approved Belts	
Color	#
Black	
Green	
Blue	5
Orange	9
Yellow	22

36

There are 42 belts pending award approval at the spring review:

Belts Pending Approval	
Color	#
Black	1
Green	6
Blue	4
Orange	10
Yellow	21

42

Total Activity Points Earned to Date:

Strategic Development	11,545
Internal Service	2,237
External Service	3,162
Other	2,315
Total	19,259

In Honor of President's Day

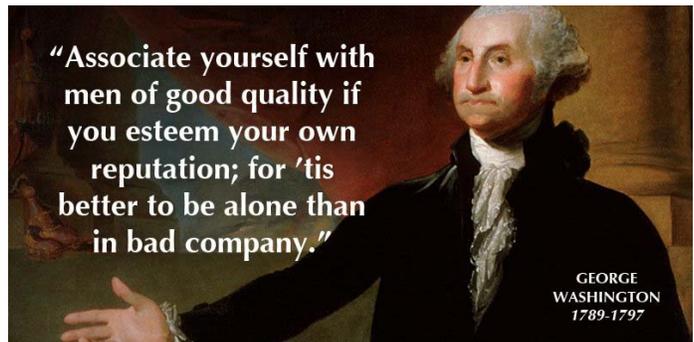
NEARLY ALL MEN CAN
STAND ADVERSITY,
BUT IF YOU WANT TO TEST
A MAN'S CHARACTER,
GIVE HIM POWER.

--- ABRAHAM LINCOLN ---



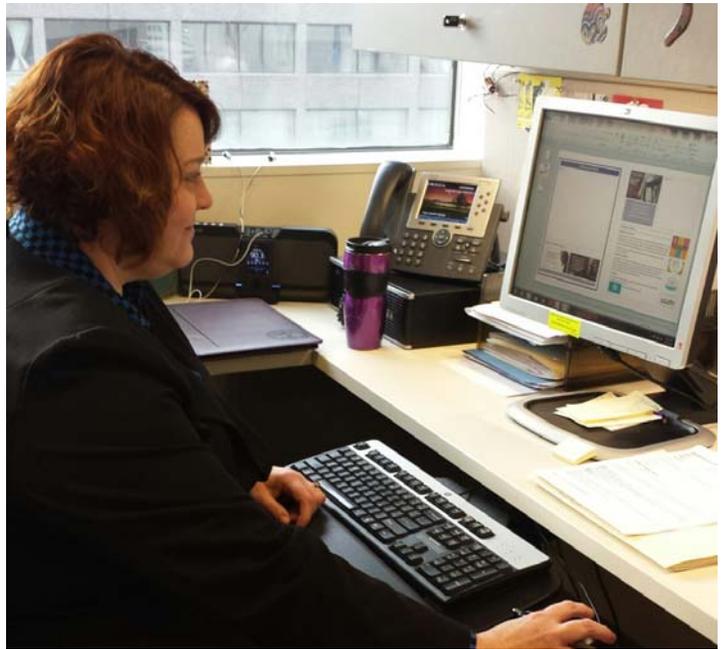
"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."

GEORGE
WASHINGTON
1789-1797





BBP Members owe a debt of gratitude to BBP member Kellie McCain (at right) for her redesign of the BBP e-newsletter. Great work, Kellie!



Volunteer Corner

Why do we Volunteer?

Volunteering is more than just giving back to the community. Being a volunteer is a way to develop skills in things you want to learn, hone your leadership style, explore career options, find new community friends, network among professional contacts, get some good old fashioned exercise, and feel good! It is a win-win situation for all involved!

To learn more on the benefits of volunteering, go to <http://www.idealists.org/info/Volunteer/Benefits>

Volunteer Tennessee

The Department of Finance and Administration supports Volunteer Tennessee, which is the state agency dedicated to service learning and civic engagement. Visit the Volunteer Tennessee site for information about service learning, conferences and Ameri-corps in our state. There are valuable links for volunteer opportunities in your community. Go to <http://www.tn.gov/finance/adm/vt/>

LinkedIn

Did you know that you can find volunteer activities through LinkedIn? If you have a LinkedIn account, simply go to



<https://volunteer.linkedin.com/>





April Romero

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Did you think Toastmasters is only for people that are terrified to speak in public? This is an incomplete understanding of what Toastmasters really can do for you. Even if you are an experienced public speaker, you could benefit from Toastmasters International. Toastmasters International Mission is to empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Did you catch those last two words...AND LEADERS! If you are in BBP, isn't becoming a better leader one of your goals?

The Club Mission is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. This is exactly what you will find if you join the TGL Toastmasters Club. You will earn five Strategic Leadership points per meeting and one point per hour of effort assisting Committee Members with organization and planning activities outside of meetings.

The Toastmasters Education Program includes two "tracks." You must complete both tracks to achieve the ultimate goal of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). In the Communication Track, a member will focus on communication skills by completing the Competent Communication manual. The 10 speech projects in this manual help members develop speaking skills one at a time. Members can then advance to the Advanced Communication Series manuals, which are self-selected from fifteen different choices. Options include Speeches by Management, Persuasive Speaking, Interpersonal Communication or Humorously Speaking, to name a few. Through this track you will complete six manuals, conduct three presentations and coach a new member with the first three speech projects.

Within the Leadership Track, a member will first complete the Competent Leadership manual. To qualify for the next level they must have received their Competent Communicator award. Participants will further refine and develop more complex leadership skills by completing projects in the Advanced Leader Program. This track would allow for many of the additional one point per hour Strategic Leadership points toward your Black Belt.

You will also receive the benefit of continuing to network with other alumni members of TGEI, TGMI and LEAD TN. If you choose to have a manager, your manager will receive a letter from Toastmasters International each time you accomplish a new goal. This could offer you numerous possibilities for goals in your annual Performance Planning Work Outcomes.

Each meeting is conducted in a structured environment. This provides practical experience for participants to take back to their departments. The President calls the meeting to order, welcomes guests and shares a thought for the day. The Toastmaster of the Day introduces each person serving in the various roles for the meeting. The roles for each meeting include an "Ah" Counter, Grammarian, Timer, Speakers and Evaluators. Any of the club members choose to serve in any of these various roles. The Grammarian offers a Word of The Day, which serves as a fun challenge for any speaker to use throughout the meeting. Up to three speakers then give their prepared speeches. A Table Topics Master challenges anyone, including guests if they are willing, to deliver a one to two minute talk on a topic. The General Evaluator introduces the evaluation portion of the meeting and also observes the meeting to provide highlights and items that may have been missed during the meeting. The meeting continues with each evaluator presenting their reports on each of the three speeches presented that day. The Speech Evaluators use a positive method of evaluation that provides a suggestion of how to improve some item in each speech. Additional reports on each person serving in a role that day include the speaker's use of time, grammar and use of "uh's/ah's". Roles are then assigned for the upcoming week and the President provides closing remarks.

If you would like to read additional information about Toastmasters International, visit their website at: www.toastmasters.org. If you have additional questions about the TGL Toastmasters Club, please feel free to contact any of the Committee Members: Trish Holliday, President (Trish.Holliday@tn.gov); Linda Cone, Vice President of Education (Linda.Cone@tn.gov); Peggy Birthrong, Vice President of Membership (Peggy.X.Birthrong@tn.gov); April Romero, Vice President of Public Relations (April.Romero@tn.gov); Abigail Sparks, Secretary (Abigail.Sparks@tn.gov); Lauren Hill, Treasurer (Lauren.Hill@tn.gov); Jeremy McBride, Sergeant-At-Arm (Jeremy.McBride@tn.gov). Our meetings take place each Friday in the Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor Conference Center, Room 2531 behind the Multimedia Room, from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

District 63 • Where Leaders Are Made
<http://d63.toastmastersdistricts.org> • www.toastmasters.org

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.



<http://www.tn.gov/dohr/bblp.shtml>

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

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