

May 2015

Volume 30, Issue 2

TGEI INFORMER

A quarterly newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Executive Institute Alumni

In This Issue:

- Avoiding the Dark Side
- Alumni Spotlight: Labor & Workforce Development's Melinda Kelsey
- Spring Mixer
- ...and more.



Customer Service Lunch & Learn at Capacity

A new location has been found for the May 19 workshop on Customer Service. As a result, 20 more people will be able to attend this Lunch & Learn opportunity. Those on the waiting list received notification that spots are available for this TGEI-sponsored event, and signed up quickly.

Director of Customer Focused Government Terry Cowles will talk about the statewide efforts to provide better customer service to Tennesseans. Here is information on the new location:

Tuesday, May 19

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT
Bone, McAllester & Norton, PLLC
511 Union Street, Suite 1600



The law firm is at the corner of 6th and Union, across from the Hermitage Hotel. Once you have received the email from EventBrite, follow the instructions to sign up and order your lunch. Limited on-site parking is available on a first-come, first-serve basis for those who do not work downtown.

Comments from the Chair



Hope all of you are enjoying the simple pleasures of spring: comfortable weather, flowers blooming, and outside activities with family and friends. Spring is often viewed as a time of renewal and a time of reflection. As leaders, let's take this season to reflect on both our accomplishments and opportunities for growth. Let's take time to renew our minds and spirits so that we are operating at an optimal level in assisting our organizations in meeting their missions.

Make this the time to revisit your plans and goals, both professional and personal, and devise a plan to accomplish them. Remember, a goal without a plan is only a dream. Don't forget to make time for YOU.....because if you aren't taking care of

you, you can't assist all who depend on you.

Stay well.

Leading for a better Tennessee,

Brigitte Tubbs-Jones

Help Gather the News!

Send in your stories
And pictures to the
TGEI Informer!
Email them to:

Jenny.Howard@tn.gov

&

Melissa.McDonald@tn.gov

Alumni Spotlight: Melinda Kelsey, Labor & Workforce Development

Melinda Kelsey's career with state government began as a part-time hourly employee in the Employment Security Division in her hometown of Sparta. She worked in both unemployment insurance and job service, assisting individuals in finding employment and in filing for unemployment benefits. During that time, she was selected to conduct a pilot project called *Making It Happen — School to Work* in Van Buren County. The program, which prepared high school students for the world of work, was a success, and was expanded statewide. In 1992, *Making It Happen — School to Work* was recognized as a National Best Practice by the United State Department of Labor in Washington.

With the success of *Making It Happen*, Kelsey's position was changed to that of marketing representative covering more than 27 counties. The coordination and outreach with Tennessee

employers grew through quarterly meetings which continue today.



Melinda Kelsey

Kelsey later left state government, and was named Human Resources Director for a Nissan company in her hometown.

Returning to the state after her daughters graduated, she was named Director of Employer Services and was promoted to Assistant Administrator of the Employment Security Division. In 2013, Commissioner Burns Phillips promoted Kelsey to Administrator

of Communications, Constituent and Government Relations.

Kelsey said, "Our outreach efforts through a statewide initiative and partnership with Dollar General called *Paychecks for Patriots Hiring Event* received four prestigious PRSA-Public Relations Society of America Parthenon Awards in April for Public Relations, Media Relations, Community Outreach and Community Relations Campaign. Over the past 1½ years, myself and one staff member have assisted more than 16,000 constituents and personally have spoken to each."

Kelsey continued, "I have also been fortunate to be part of several Tennessee Government Leadership programs. Currently, I serve on the TGL Engagement Committee. I am a graduate of the first TBI Citizens Academy and the FBI Citizens Academy."

Avoiding the Dark Side *(continued from page 2)*

reacting in the same way time after time to the challenges of the day. If reactions tend to run to the negative, then stop and think seriously about changing the way you initially respond to those situations. Change the thinking process, change the behavior.

2. Learn to position yourself to recognize and respond to good ideas. Constantly and purposefully expose yourself to the positive side of situations and concepts. Rather than constantly going to the "dark side," or the pessimistic view, take the time to put thought to what good there is in such situations and concepts.

3. Be accountable for how you respond. When you catch yourself slipping back into the negative, hit your reset button and get back on track. It is easy in the

fast-paced, challenging work environment that today's state government throws at you to become habitual in how you respond to negative situations. Changing behavior starts with the mind, deciding to make a change and then being accountable to follow through.

As leaders in state government, the need to constantly evaluate how you respond to the negative that confronts you. By purposefully changing the way you think about, and handle, such situations and ideas, you can begin to avoid the "dark side" of work, and become a more successful leader of people.

***By Trish Holliday, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
DOHR Assistant Commissioner/CLO***

About Our Organization

The mission of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) is to promote effective leadership in state government by providing TGEI Alumni Network with opportunities for education, leadership development, and networking with fellow alumni and state leaders.

The membership of the Network is open to all TGEI participants who have completed the TGEI course sponsored by the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Department of Human Resources.

TGEI Alumni



TGEI Contacts:

Brigitte Tubbs-Jones
 Director of Legal Services
 Department of Human Resources
 Polk Building, 1st floor
 505 Deaderick Street
 Nashville, TN 37243

Phone:
 615.532.8853

Fax:
 615.401.6847

Email:
 Brigitte.Tubbs-Jones@tn.gov

Julie Perrey
 Chief Networking Officer
 TRICOR
 6185 Cockrill Bend Circle
 Nashville, TN 37209

Phone:
 615.741.1800

Fax:
 615.741.2696

Email: Julie.Perrey@tn.gov

2015 Calendar of Events

May:

- 14: Newsletter published
- 15: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- 19: Professional Development Luncheon

June:

- 11: TGEI Gives Back with Second Harvest
- 19: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

July:

- 9: Newsletter published
- 17: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

August:

- 19: Lunch - Game-Changing Leadership
- 21: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

September:

- TBD: TGEI Gives Back
- 18: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

October:

- 8: Newsletter published
- 16: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- TBD: Masquerade Ball

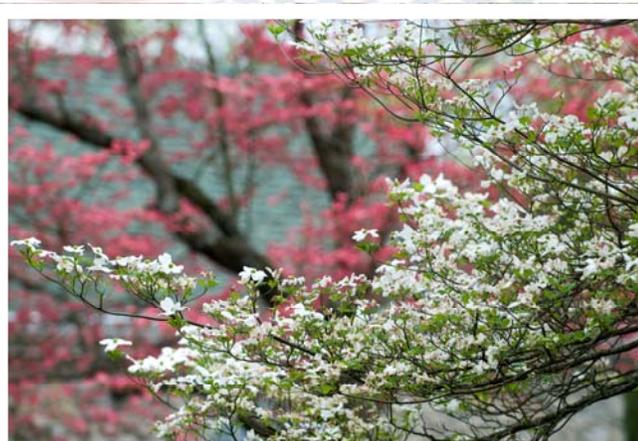
November:

- 20: Steering Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- TBD: Signature Community Service event

December:

- 9: TGEI Holiday Breakfast

The Final Glance



Spring in Tennessee (State Photo Services)