



THE BLUE PAGES TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

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A SEASON TO REFLECT AND BE THANKFUL

From the Secretary's Desk

The Thanksgiving holiday is behind us, and Christmas is less than a month away. Before we know it, the Tennessee General Assembly will be back in session on

January 10th! While the holiday season can be hectic and trying at times, I plan to focus on how richly I have been blessed in so many ways.

One of the many gifts I have been given throughout my life is that so many family, friends, and citizens of our great state who I don't always know very well have provided me with such great support over my 15 years of public service. As I travel the state, I get a lot of "windshield" time. This time gives me the opportunity for a lot of reflection about just how many wonderful people God has placed in my life. If I were to try and buy a newspaper advertisement

to thank everyone individually, I couldn't possibly afford one that could list every name. I couldn't possibly make enough phone calls to thank everyone, nor could I write enough notes. The older I get, the more I realize the best way to say thanks to others is to try to lift others like I have been lifted.

This holiday season I hope each of us will seek out opportunities both big and small to touch the lives of others. Every one of us can spread good will by the simplest of means. Whether it is a kind greeting or it could be a simple smile to someone who looks like they need one. Remember you might offer the only positive moment to a lonely neighbor or even a complete stranger. If we all endeavor to offer ourselves during this Christmas season, I know we will all receive something far



INSIDE

A Season to Reflect and Be Thankful	pg1
Charitable Solicitations Division Assesses \$720,000 Penalty Against Professional Fundraiser	pg2
Richard Arnold, Director of Publications Retires after 20 years	pg3
International Adoptions	pg5
Meet Joseph Gyeong-Hyeon Smolen	pg5
Rule Making Hearings and Lists of Rules	pg7
Office Closures for Christmas and New Year's Holidays	pg7

greater than anything found under a Christmas tree.

I know I always close my letters with “thank you for the privilege of serving as your Secretary of State.” Please know how sincere I am and that just as I said after taking the oath of office in

January of 2009: “I give Him my all, and I give you my all.” I will continue to say thank you for the chance to make our state government the one you so richly deserve.

CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS DIVISION ASSESSES \$720,000 PENALTY AGAINST PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISER

The Tennessee Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming has assessed \$720,000 in civil penalties against Xentel, Inc., a Florida-based professional fundraising company, for failing to properly disclose its status in phone calls to Tennessee residents prior to requesting that they donate to the American Association of State Troopers.

The division’s investigators documented 144 cases between July 1 and Aug. 15 in which Xentel representatives violated the Tennessee Charitable Solicitations Act, which requires professional fundraising organizations to clearly and conspicuously disclose that they are raising money on behalf of a charitable organization. Organizations that violate the law are subject to a civil penalty of \$5,000 for each violation.

Todd Kelley, director of the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming stated that “based on the calls we reviewed, it is clear that Xentel, in the vast majority of those calls, attempted to lead those who were called to believe that the solicitation was being done by

the charity itself, rather than by a professional fundraiser.”

The Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming is part of the Office of the Secretary of State.

“It is very important for groups involved in charitable fundraising to be very open and forthright about what they are doing,” Secretary Hargett said. “Openness requires that they make it clear who is raising money. If a professional fundraiser is involved, potential donors have a right to ask how much of the money they donate will go to the charitable organization and how much will go to the professional fundraiser. That information may well affect some decisions about whether or not to give.”

Information about organizations registered to solicit contributions in Tennessee is available at:

<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/charity>.

To report potentially fraudulent or misleading activities by a charitable organization or professional fundraiser, contact the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming at (615) 741-2555 or local law enforcement authorities. 

“IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR GROUPS INVOLVED IN CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING TO BE VERY OPEN AND FORTHRIGHT ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.



RICHARD ARNOLD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS RETIRES AFTER 20 YEARS



RICHARD ARNOLD

When Richard Arnold's family sold its retail business in 1991, he wasn't sure what his next move would be. So he called up then-Secretary of State Bryant Millsaps to see if there were any state jobs available.

"I had known Secretary Millsaps previously when he was the Chief Clerk of the House," Arnold said. "When we sold the family business in March of 1991, I called him up and said I was available if he had any openings. My wife and I had no plans at the time and luckily in July of that same year, he called me up, told me to put on a suit and show up. On July 15th, I showed up and I've been here ever since."

The rest, as they say, is history. Arnold, now director of the Division of Publications, spent the next 20 years, four months and 15 days working for the Secretary's office. His tenure ends Nov. 30, the last day before his retirement.

Arnold has worked under three Secretaries of State - Secretary Millsaps from 1991 to 1993, Secretary Riley C. Darnell from 1993 to 2009 and Secretary Tre Hargett from 2009 through the present.

"My last 20 years have been great with the Department of State," Arnold recalled. "I have worked under three Secretaries of State who were all good men and good bosses."

Arnold said one of his most enduring memories during his time with the department has to do with the Blue Book, the manual of state government, history and other Tennessee facts that the Publications Division produces every other year.

"Every time, the delivery of the Blue Book came around in January and without fail, it would be one of the coldest, snowiest, iciest days of the winter," he said. "I'm sure we can count on that again for this (next) year."

In addition to working for the state, Arnold has also served as a longtime city council member in his hometown of Dickson. He is retiring from this position Nov. 30 as well.

Looking forward, Arnold does not plan on a lazy retirement, though hopes to get there one day.

"Freddie Couples is a man I look up to and a great golfer," Arnold said. "I would love to get



*RILEY DARNELL (LEFT), TRE HARGETT (CENTER), BRYANT MILLSAPS (RIGHT)
SPEAK AT RICHARD ARNOLD'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION*

to the point where he is right now, not worrying about too much and golfing.”

Until that time, there are plenty of things to keep him busy.

“First, I plan to visit my son who lives in Dallas. He’s been there six months and it’s about time I get down there,” he said. “Second, Secretary Hargett has extended me part-time employment in the future as needed for special projects. Most importantly though, I have a ‘Honey-Do’ list that is longest of all.”

It won’t all be hard work, though.

“I will hunt and golf when the time arises,” he said.

Though Arnold will be retiring, he had some advice to the younger generation of employees who can help inspire changes in the future that will help the state.

“Don’t be wallflowers,” he said. “Don’t be afraid to bring up new ways of doing things. The state, I think, is working toward doing more with less and the younger generation of employees

understands that best. Input will mean more and more and people need to be willing to share their ideas. Your ideas might not always be used, or ever be taken into consideration, but it shows you are thinking and wanting to make Tennessee better.”

Richard is a graduate of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he met his wife, Sarah, who is also a UT graduate. They have two children, Caroline (30) and Trip (27). Sarah has taught for 28 years and currently teaches second grade at the Discovery School of Dickson.

When asked if Arnold had a final message before leaving, he simply said this:

“What has made this experience worthwhile are the employees I have worked with over the years, many of whom are still here,” he said. “It has been a pleasure working with such good people and it has been very fun and very rewarding. These employees do good, hard work day in and day out and it has honestly been a pleasure.” 🌟



INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Some people may have the impression that the only thing state employees do is push paper around. The following is an example of how state employees positively impact Tennessean's lives and the lives of children worldwide. International adoptions require an apostille or authentication, depending on the nation of origin, by the secretary of state in the state where the documents were signed. This certification of the signatures validity on the documents is much like the notary publics would be on the local level. Apostilles/authentications are processed in the Secretary of State Division of Business Services. Over 12, 100 aposittles and authentications have been processed this year.

Documents may be submitted by mail or in person.

For more information, contact: Division of Business Services, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Snodgrass Tower, 6th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243, 615.741.0536, business.services@tn.gov, or visit http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm

MEET JOSEPH GYEONG-HYEON SMOLEN

Some children wish for trucks or dolls on their birthdays, some want ponies and race cars but for a small little boy in South Korea, all he wanted for his



PATTI AND JOSEPH SMOLEN GETTING READY TO TAKE A CITY TOUR OF SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA SHORTLY AFTER BEING INTRODUCED.

birthday was a family. Before his first birthday he got his wish, and Patti and Jonathan Smolen from Chattanooga finally had a son.

The Smolen family started the adoption process seven years ago with Bethany Christian Services. "We looked for an adoption agency that we could trust and that worked with the countries we were interested in," Patti Smolen said. Bethany is one of the largest adoption agencies in the United States, focusing their global nonprofit organization on caring for orphans and vulnerable children across five continents.

"The process wasn't very fast in the beginning," Patti said. "It took a year to complete the paperwork for China and then another year for them to process our application, which is pretty

normal. After all this time, we were considered unfit by China to adopt a child due to the fact that my husband has a history of cancer."

This was a difficult time for the Smolens, but they did not give up hope. In the spring of 2010, they received an email concerning special needs children in South Korea. Joseph's picture captured their hearts.

Joseph was diagnosed with Ventriculomegaly, a condition that enlarges the ventricles of the brain. Joseph has the possibility of developing fluid in the brain, which would require a shunt to help drain the fluid.

Patti, a speech pathologist, believes her life has prepared her for adopting a special needs child.

"All my life, I have felt that the Lord has given me the skills I need to go through this adoption process," Patti said. "With Joseph, we knew we had great resources in our community for children with health issues and we were confident that we could meet his special needs."

They quickly completed their paperwork for South Korea. Two weeks later, the Smolens were matched with Joseph and in six months, they were on their way to meet their new little boy.

"I remember landing in South Korea on a Thursday and we weren't supposed to be there

until Monday,” Patti said. “We had planned to experience South Korea and learn more about the country, but when we were picked up from the airport by our escort, we were notified plans had changed. We were going to pick up our child the next day so we could celebrate his birthday with him.”

The Smolens described this experience as an exciting challenge.

“We had our first family birthday two days later and got to experience South Korea as new parents,” they said. “We got to see his country with our beautiful son.”

Jonathan remembers visiting an art district



SMOLEN FAMILY PICTURE. PATTI AND JONATHAN WITH JOSEPH.

where Korean workers would stop and ask if the Smolens were American. Upon replying yes, the workers would ask if their child was Korean. Yes again. The response was heartwarming.

“They stopped us and thanked us for adopting and taking care of their son and giving him

a better life,” Jonathan said. “It was a very humbling experience, and we feel honored and blessed to have our child.”

That thought has also been expressed back at home in Chattanooga.

“Everywhere I go, be it grocery stores or church, everyone we know stops and asks if this is Joseph. People say ‘we’re so glad he’s home, we’ve been praying for him’,” Patti said. “The love and care shown by our friends and family means the world. You don’t always get that with adoptions, and we have been very blessed. It’s just been wonderful.”

Through all the memories, one in particular sticks out to Jonathan.

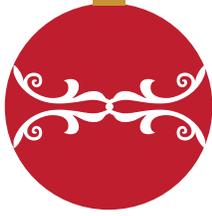
“I had just finished changing him and he reached out for me, hugged my neck and put his head down into my chest,” Jonathan said. “Even when he is 20 or 25 someday, that is how I’ll always remember him.”

International adoptions in Tennessee require an apostille or authentication by the Tennessee Secretary of State’s office. “This is a service very few people know about but a

service that our department is proud to offer to the people of Tennessee,” Secretary of State Tre Hargett said.

For more information on document authentication, call (615) 741-0536 or go to http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm. 

OFFICE CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS



In celebration of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Office of the Secretary of State will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 26, Friday, Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 2. The Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is usually open on Saturdays, will also be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 31. If you have business with any of the office's divisions, please plan accordingly. 🌟

RULE MAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rule making hearings are open to the public. The web link below will provide information about the location and times of the hearings. Information about the rules going into effect includes changes or additions to rules.

To view the rule-making meeting notices online, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?>

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?>

If you have suggestions on how the online posting of the state's rules could be more "user-friendly," please contact Cody York at 615-741-2650 or email him at: Cody.York@tn.gov. 🌟

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