



# TGMI NEWS 2016

Tennessee Government Management Institute

Summer Edition

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## Message from the Chair

**Michelle M. Smith**

As Will Rogers so aptly stated, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." This sums up the first six months of my experience as the TGMI Chairperson. I can attest that time truly does fly!

The Steering Committee has been hard at work trying to re-energize the alumni. The year began with an in-depth survey. Great information was shared by the respondents and all feedback has been reviewed by the committee, with changes incorporated.

The class of 2016 has completed their two weeks of classes, and is scheduled to graduate on July 11, 2016. A presentation to the group regarding the alumni, opportunities after graduation, and the election process was completed during the first week at Montgomery Bell. This was followed by a picnic hosted by the alumni, featuring the wonderful grilling prowess of Lauren Hill (Class of 2006). A presentation was also

completed during the week in Knoxville followed by the election of officers. I am looking forward to working with our newest alumni very soon.

The Lunch and Learn series has taken off with speakers scheduled at least monthly through the beginning of 2017! Thank you to the Education Committee, which is led by Marcus Dodson (Class of 2014).

Volunteer opportunities continue with the St. Jude Rock 'N Roll Marathon and Half-Marathon and the Second Harvest Food Bank. Look for additional opportunities on the DOHR/TGMI website. Social events are also scheduled for the Nashville Sounds game on August 31st, Predators games, and the Annual Meeting on December 9th. Please mark your calendars and get involved!

These months have also allowed time for reflection of the opportunities that



we all experienced as graduates of TGMI. As Vince Lombardi said, "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." Let us enter the last half of 2016 with the commitment to make a positive impact within our divisions, departments, the community, and the State. If I can influence one person and have a positive impact on their life, what a blessing that would be. Inspire someone today and remember as Helen Keller said, "Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows."

**Michelle M. Smith**  
**2016 TGMI Chairperson**  
**Class of 2013**



# Congratulations to the TGMI Class of 2016!!!

## Tennessee Government Management Institute Class of 2016



Kelly Armes  
 Laurie Baker  
 Pierce Beckham  
 Kevin Bradley  
 Sherron Brown  
 Joan Cagle  
 Shay Deason  
 Suzy Douglas  
 Daniel Espensen  
 John Fuss  
 Neru Gobin  
 Mark Green

Michael Hamilton  
 Craig Hargrow  
 Drew Harpool  
 Angela Hassler  
 Leslie Hathaway  
 Marianne Houser  
 Michael Knowles  
 Melissa Lahue  
 Sean Lenart  
 Scott Miller  
 Briana Moore  
 John Moravec

Patrick Morey  
 Vicky Parker  
 Jeffrey Piatt  
 Rhonda Ronnow  
 Sharon Rose  
 Jim Rutherford  
 Trent Sansing  
 Thomas Simmons  
 Nikki Turner  
 Eric Wilson  
 Russ Winkler  
 Chris Yarbrough

### 2016 TGMI Class Officers

**President** - Neru Gobin  
**Vice President** - Chris Yarbrough  
**Steering Committee Rep** - Sherron Brown  
**Class Reporter** - Kelly Armes  
**Social Coordinator** - Marianne Houser





## Educational and Professional Achievements



**Cyndi Taylor (Class of 2008-I)** was elected to the TGMI Steering Committee as Member at Large for 2016 – 2017.

**Gary McEntire (Class of 2008-II)** became President of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet in June.

**Steve Hawkins (Class of 2000)** received the Technologist of Distinction award, by the College of Engineering at Tennessee Tech University at the EWeek awards banquet on February 25th.



**James Beard (Class of 2008-I)** On April 15, 2016, the Jackson Tennessee Department of Correction staff surprised James with a little celebration for all he does for the office. Also, in May, Chief James Beard was inducted into the Vintagers Group at Tennessee State University, holder of a Tennessee State Degree for 40 years.



**Eric Fowlie (Class of 2008-I)** earned his Orange Belt in the Black Belt Program.



**Trish Holliday (Class of 2008-I)** was awarded in Memphis with the Edwin L. Swain Leadership Award for “Excellence in Human Resource Management” for the Southern Region.



**Janet Johnson LaRosa, TGMI (Class of 2014)**, recently became a Realtor® with EXIT Realty Lakeside. She has been lifelong real estate enthusiast and has entered the profession with a service-oriented approach.

**Stephen Reksten (Class of 2008-I)** earned his Yellow Belt in the Black Belt Program.



**April Romero (Class of 2008-I)** graduated from Middle Tennessee State University on May 6 with a Master’s Degree and was inducted to the Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society in November. She also received the Advanced Leader Bronze Toastmaster certification in April.

## Promotions



**Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2008-I)** was promoted in May to Executive Director of IT with the Department of Environment and Conservation.

**Shannon Hardin (Class of 2015)** promoted to Assistant Director of HR for the Department of Mental Health in February.

**Meghan Curran (Class of 2015)** promoted to Executive Director, District Support for Department of Education last August.

**Brian Hughes (Class of 2015)** promoted to HR Director for the Department of Correction in January.

**Steve Chipman (Class of 2011)** promoted to Transportation Manager 2, in the Region 4 Project Development Office.



**Tommy Sneed (Class of 2008-I)** promoted to Chief Compliance Officer at the Department of Revenue in August.



**Curtis Clan (Class of 2008-I)** was promoted in the Department of Finance & Administration, Strategic Technology Solutions Division to Chief Information Security Officer

**Brenda Bright (Class of 2015)** promoted to Assistant Director of HR for the Department of Correction in April.

**Michael Flanery (Class of 2015)** promoted to Program Manager in the Office of Juvenile Justice for Department of Children’s Services in April.



## Retirements



**Mike Hoyal**  
(Class of 2008-I)



**Jim Barnes**  
(Class of 2008-I)



**Carolyn Head**  
(Class of 2008-I)

**Donna Pewitt**  
(Class of 2011)  
recently retired from the Department of Human Resources after 32 years of service.



### *Remembering a Friend*

**Mark Spruiell** (Class of 2005), passed away in April. He worked for the Department of Human Services for over 15 years. Mark will be deeply missed.

**Cindy Saladin** (Class of 2000) After 39 years of service, Cindy happily retired on June 10th.

**Marilou Cook** (Class of 2007), who served as TGMI Chair in 2012, retired on May 16th.

## Making a Difference in the Community



### Second Harvest Food Bank Volunteering Events

So far this year, TGMI Alumni assisted in packing 4,557 backpacks for children in our community!! The BackPack program serves over 5,000 hungry children every week.





## Other Announcements

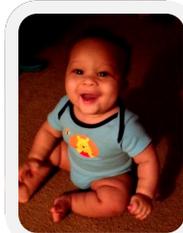
**Mike Hoyal (Class of 2008-I)** became a new grandpa on January 6th.



**Jaclyn Harding (Class of 2013)** and her husband, Justin, welcomed a new baby girl, Hayden Belle, into the world on May 1st.



**Angela Harrison (Class of 2011)** is the proud grandmother to her second grandson, Isaiah.



**Zachary Nixon's (Class of 2011)** first son (adoption was finalized on April 28th!) turned 6 months old!



**Nicholas and Julie Brindle (Class of 2013)** were married on June 11th. They enjoyed a West Coast honeymoon.



**Melinda Weir (Class of 2009)** married Keith Weir in September 2015. They went to Niagra Falls for their honeymoon.



**Teressa Turns (Class of 2011)** and her husband, Roger, celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary on June 11th.

**Steve Chipman (Class of 2011)** will celebrate the arrival of his second grandchild in October.

**Melissa Brown's (Class of 2013)** son, Nathan, graduated with a degree in Musical Theatre at Austin Peay State University's. Also, her son, Eian, was selected to represent Creek Wood High School (Charlotte, TN) as a representative to Boys State at Tennessee Tech in May.

**Steve Goins' (Class of 2008-II)** daughter and son-in-law recently completed their PhDs in math at the University of Arkansas. This fall, his daughter, Emily Goins Thomas, will be an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Charleston Southern University in Charleston, SC.



## 2016 TGMI Steering Committee

**Michelle Smith (Class of 2013)**  
Chair

**Joseph Waldrum (Class of 2014)**  
Vice-Chair

**Vicky Hutchings (Class of 2012)**  
Past Chair

**Doug Willis (Class of 2014)**  
Past Class President

**Lori Hedge (Class of 2014)**  
Past Class Steering Member

**Jason Seay (Class of 2015)**  
Present Class President

**Shelley Walker (Class of 2015)**  
Present Class Steering Member

**Marcus Dodson (Class of 2014)**  
Steering Member At-Large (1st Year)

**Cynthia Taylor (Class of 2008-I)**  
Steering Member At-Large (1st Year)

**Nneka Norman-Gordon (Class of 2012)**  
Steering Member At-Large (2nd Year)

**Cynthia Stewart (Class of 2008-I)**  
Steering Member At-Large (2nd Year)

**Trish Holliday (Class of 2008-I)**  
DOHR Ex-Officio

**Antonio Meeks (Class of 2012)**  
DOHR Representative

## Upcoming Events

### July 13

Lunch & Learn: Reen Baskin, Alternative Workplace Solutions Initiative

### August 10

Lunch & Learn: Black Belt Program Discussion

### August 31

Sounds Baseball Game @ 12:05 pm

### September 14

Lunch & Learn: Scott McClellan, TBI Wireless Hacking

### October 12

Lunch & Learn: Jim Henry, Deputy Governor

### November 2

TGL Conference

### November 10

Williamson County Career Exploration Day

### December 9

Annual Holiday Gathering

### December 14

Lunch & Learn: Steve Chester, Managing Multi Generations

*Additional information regarding all events are posted on the [TGMI website!](#)*

TGMI Steering Committee Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.  
275 Stewarts Ferry Pike,  
One Cannon Way, Room 1152

If you would like to submit ideas, announcements or articles for future newsletters, please send them to your class reporter or to:  
[Joseph.Waldrum@tn.gov](mailto:Joseph.Waldrum@tn.gov)  
[Julie.Brindle@tn.gov](mailto:Julie.Brindle@tn.gov)