

THE BLUE PAGES...



Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

April 2010 - Vol.1, No. 2

From the Desk of the Secretary...

Thank you for the wonderful response you provided to our first edition of The Blue Pages.

The legislative session is now in full swing and for the last couple of weeks our office has been focused on work with the State Funding Board. Last week, we were able to reach a consensus on revenue estimates to conclude the current fiscal year as well as the projections for the 2010-11 fiscal year. In the midst of this work, the halls of the Capitol have been packed with visitors from across our great state and even from around the world! During the last three weeks, I had the privilege of speaking to more than 20 leadership groups, co-hosted a group of county elected officials and even met with dignitaries from Taiwan.

We continue to make great strides in our efforts to provide more efficient and effective service to our customers. The Division of Business Services is getting rave reviews on

its new online annual reporting system. This new BEAR (Business Entity Activity Reporting) system will save Tennesseans tax dollars by allowing us to reduce overtime costs while offering a convenient way to transact business with our office.

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Secretary Hargett visits with Williamson County commissioners Bob Barnwell and Cheryl Wilson during a reception for county elected officials at the Capitol.

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These are just a few of the things that we here at the Office of the Secretary of State are excited about right now. I hope you will enjoy this edition of The Blue Pages and I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Secretary of State.

BUSINESS SERVICES - ONLINE FILING...

In a difficult economy, most businesses have neither time nor money to spare. So it's not surprising that more and more companies that do business in Tennessee are choosing to file their registration paperwork and annual reports online with the Office of the Secretary of State.

About 185,000 businesses and other corporate entities are expected to file annual reports in Tennessee this year. Since most of them close out their books at the end of each calendar year, their annual reports were due April 1. The office's Division of Business Services switched to a "true" online filing system last fall. For about a year prior to the transition, companies could transmit their reports via the Internet, but that information still had to be manually keyed into the old computer system by employees.

Now when companies submit their information, it is automatically entered into the database system. In addition to saving businesses time and the expense of mailing the reports, the Office of the Secretary of State will spend less staff time transcribing those records.

**Click here for
online filing**

Secretary of State Tre Hargett said the new online filing system has helped move the office closer toward his goal of reducing the volume of paper records it processes and maintains.

"Particularly in these challenging financial times in which we live, I think people expect government to look for ways not only for government to operate more efficiently, but also for ways to make doing business with the government more efficient," Secretary Hargett said. "This new system does that while also providing better service to our customers - the citizens of Tennessee."

Lori McPherson, a senior paralegal for Nissan North America Inc., described Tennessee's system as one of the best in the country.

"(I) am responsible for filing annual reports for Nissan and subsidiaries in all 50 states," Ms. McPherson said. "I prefer to file as many reports as possible online for time-saving reasons and this year I realized that Tennessee's online annual report filing system is probably one of the best I have encountered. It is easy to navigate, the instructions are clear and the report generated at the end of the filing process looks quite nice."

The online filing method is gaining in popularity: Between the launch of the new system last fall and April 1, about 47,000 businesses prepared their paperwork online.

Nathan Burton, director of the Division of Business Services, estimates the new system will save the state about \$25,000 in overtime costs. This is in addition to approximately \$50,000 saved on printing and postage costs this year by sending out reminder postcards instead of annual report forms.

"Online filing allows us to provide exceptional service to our customers and operate more efficiently on a daily basis," Mr. Burton said.

SECRETARY HARGETT TO HONOR TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY WINNERS

Secretary of State Tre Hargett will pay tribute to some of the state’s brightest and most creative young people during the Tennessee History Day awards ceremony April 17.

About 250 students in grades six through 12 are expected to participate in the annual event, which is organized by the Tennessee Historical Society and sponsored for the first time this year by the Tennessee Office of the Secretary of State.

“Tennesseans can be proud of the hard work our finest students have done to reach the finals of the Tennessee History Day competition,” Secretary Hargett said. “With exemplary students like these, Tennessee’s future is indeed bright.”

History Day is a competition in which students submit essays, museum-style exhibits, web sites, documentaries or live performances based on historical topics which are judged against work submitted by their peers.

Thousands of students participate in local History Day events across the state, with the winners advancing to district competitions. The winners at the district level earned the right to compete in the April 17 event in Nashville.

Secretary Hargett attended district competitions in Murfreesboro and Knoxville this year. District competitions were also held in Memphis and Chattanooga.

Tennessee History Day is a state affiliate of National History Day, which was launched in 1974 by an Ohio college professor who wanted to create new opportunities for students to learn about history and develop researching, critical thinking and communications skills.

Winners in the statewide competition are eligible to compete in the National History Day finals, which will be held in College Park, Maryland June 13-17.

The projects prepared by Tennessee History Day participants will be on public display at the Legislative Plaza in downtown Nashville from 10 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. April 17 while judges evaluate the students’ work.

The winners will be announced during the awards ceremony, which is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center’s James K. Polk Theater.

SECRETARY HARGETT SERVING IN NASS LEADERSHIP POSITION

Secretary of State Tre Hargett recently agreed to serve as southern region vice president for the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). Secretary Hargett will serve on the executive board of NASS. He was appointed to the post by Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, who is president of NASS.

STATE LIBRARY TO HOST WORKSHOP ON QUILTS

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) will host the latest in a series of workshops and seminars titled, “Quilts of Tennessee: What they Can Tell Us About Our Ancestors,” on April 17. The workshop will be held at the State Library and Archives building, located at 403 Seventh Avenue North, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Lori D. Lockhart, M.A. Ed., a fourth generation Tennessee quilter and archivist at TSLA, will conduct the workshop, which is free and open to the public.

The Quilts of Tennessee Collection at the Tennessee State Library and Archives contains photographs and images of quilts made in Tennessee from the 1820s through the 1970s as well as information - sometimes spanning several generations - about quilt makers. A study of individual quilt patterns can provide insights about the socioeconomic, political and religious circumstances during the times when the quilts were made.

Lockhart is project manager for the Tennessee Virtual Archives (TeVA) and is the webmaster for the Society of Tennessee Archivists. In 2007, she co-authored a chapter, “Electronic Media in Therapy and Rehabilitation,” for a master’s level art therapy textbook.

Those wishing to attend the workshop must contact TSLA to reserve a seat, as the number of attendees is limited. Reservations can be made via e-mail to workshop.tsla@tn.gov. Patrons may also register by telephone by calling 615-741-2764. Parking is available in front, on the side and in back of the Library and Archives building.

EARLY VOTING FOR COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD APRIL 14-29

County primary elections will be held in a majority of the counties throughout the state on May 4. Citizens must have been registered to vote by April 5 in order to participate in those elections. Early voting for the May 4 elections will be held from April 14-29.

The qualifying period for candidates seeking state and federal offices this year ended at noon on April 1. Candidates who filed qualifying paperwork have until noon April 8 to withdraw if they do not wish for their names to appear on the ballot.

To view a list of candidates who have filed paperwork to run for various offices, go to <http://tnsos.org/elections/2010CandidatesPetitionsFiled.php?showall>.

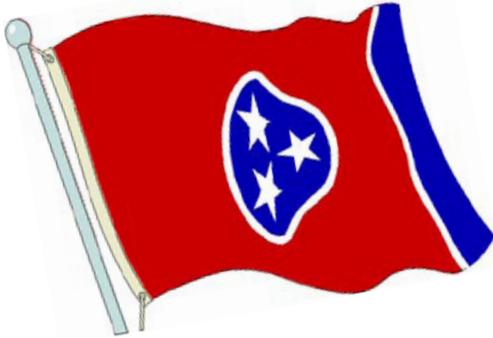
State and federal primary elections are scheduled for Aug. 5, with the general elections for those offices to be held Nov. 2.

The county general elections will be held Aug. 5, the same day as the state and federal primary elections.

**Click here to
view list of
candidates**

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<http://state.tn.us/sos/bluebook/index.htm>



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Kara McMahan, Executive Secretary
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