

A quarterly newsletter issued by Tennessee Government Executive Institute alumni

January 2007

2007 Steering Committee

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Vice Chairperson George Zukotynski 2004

> Past Chairperson Buddy Lea 1999

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2005 Members Kendra Gipson Trent Ridley Jeanne Stevens

At Large Members Tracy Carter 2001 Jack Elder 2004 Ron Maupin 2000 Larry Richardson 1997

Ex-Officio Members Lynn Goodman 2002

Newsletter Editor George Zukotynski 2004

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Major Renovations Improve State Emergency Preparedness

Governor Phil Bredesen, Tennessee Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett and TEMA Director James Bassham reopened the newly renovated state-of-the-art State Emergency Operations Center in September. The facility is fully capable of handling any disasters that Tennessee might face.

Bredesen called the project a "significant investment in our preparedness capabilities."

The renovation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), which included upgrading the SEOC computer facilities to 88 terminals and the adjacent 24-hour manned operations center, was nearly two-thirds of the project's total \$4.7 million budget.

In addition to an open house attended by Governor Bredesen and media outlets from around the state, TEMA presented a special briefing on the new facility to many directors of various state agencies and cabinet members.

Tennessee's commitment to preparedness was recently recognized in a review of all 50 states' disaster plans by the federal Department of Homeland Security. Tennessee was one of only 10 states to be deemed fully prepared with adequate plans in place to respond in a major disaster.

Having sufficient plans in place to respond to major disasters, TEMA Director Bassham said, is not accomplished overnight. "It is a reflection of years of attention to details as plans are written, exercised and improved and so on."

The new communications technology in the emergency operations center greatly expands TEMA's capability to coordinate the state's responses during an emergency and is a quantum leap forward from previous capabilities.

Recently, TEMA's new SEOC was used in a required graded exercise of the state's response capabilities involving the TVA's Sequoyah Nuclear plant. The federal evaluating team's official report found that Tennessee had no areas requiring corrective action. This is a rarity during an exercise of this complexity and has only been achieved three times previously in the past 25 years.

The SEOC, located inside the National Guard State Headquarters on Sidco Drive, provides the critical communications links and coordination with state response assets during any major disaster. Once activated for an emergency, the SEOC is manned by TEMA personnel and the required emergency service coordinators (ESCs) from various state agencies, such as Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Health Department, as well as private entities active in disasters.

New technology used in the SEOC now allows for rapid collection and coordination of information from emergency personnel in the field.

In addition to the new facility, TEMA has several mobile assets that can re-establish communications during a disaster that disrupts the ability to communicate from a region of the state. TEMA has already deployed some of these assets in support of state operations, such as the deadly tornadoes that struck the state in April of this year.



TEMA Director James Bassham Class of 1997, Governor Phil Bredesen and Tennessee Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett Class of 1998 field questions from the media at the reopening ceremony of the newly renovated State Emergency Operations Center.

This Mobile Communications Vehicle provides the state with the ability to provide a mobile emergency operations center or incident command post in the event of a major disaster. As with TEMA's other communications assets, the vehicle has the ability to provide communications to areas where access to the normal networks, or 24-hour warning point, has been disrupted by weather or other wide-spread disasters. Technology on the MCV includes:

- Radios systems and equipment
 - 2 Low band
 - 8 High band
 - 7 UHF
 - 8 700/800 MHz
- Radio frequency interconnect bridge
- Satellite phone system with (cell) interface
- Satellite broadband Internet and TV services
- On-board Weather Station
- Internal LAN with server for multiple laptops
- 40-inch LCD monitor, 17-inch LCD monitor
- Digital video recorder
- 20-kilowatt generator
- Forty-foot tall telescoping antenna mast with tilt/pan camera.





Held at the newly renovated Tennessee Room in the William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower on Thursday, November 2, 2006, the TGI 2006 Fall Conference focused on "The Call to Public Service." The event was well attended with over 200 alumni including two retirees: Dorothy Shell Berry and Tony Earp. The conference committee added a special touch this year by allowing state departments, boards, and commissions to showcase agency awards, plaques, photos, magazines, etc. that reflect national, state, regional, or local recognitions attained by the organization or its employees. Over 20

departments displayed their accomplishments, and 27 departments exhibited posters publicizing the names of their employees with over 40 years of service. A total of 285 employees were recognized in these posters.

The event opened with a welcome from Commissioner Deborah Story, Department of Personnel, who commented on how impressed she has been with the TGI programs and commended TGEI and TGMI alumni as well as all state employees on their dedication and loyalty to public service and to state government.

Conveying a state of the state message, Dave Goetz, Commissioner of the Department of Finance and Administration, discussed what we are doing to make a difference in state government as well as what are our challenges. Commissioner Goetz shared the state's recent rating upgrades by Moody's, Fitch, and Standard and Poor's; achievement of a record level for Fiscal Year 2007's Rainy Day Fund; results of the Benchmarking study; and management's plan to perform responsible fiscal management for continued success going forward. The commissioner further spoke about management's initiatives such as the Edison Project, ERP contracts, and the key tasks necessary to begin training and implementation.

Jerry Bukiewicz, Sterling Institute, facilitated discussion regarding meeting the challenges of public service. The focus of his presentation was organizational change and why it is such a challenge; leadership which is more than good management; and motivating staff and can we do this. He communicated the differences between managers and leaders and explained what it requires to be a lead. He talked about change and how management can recognize change as being emotional rather than intellectual and how they can lead employees through the emotional aspects of that change. Mr. Bukiewicz also discussed the requirements of good leadership: knowledge, skills, and courage which should be applied to the five tools of leadership: vision, enrollment (inspiration), alignment, empowerment, and motivation. Motivation is achieved when employees can commit to the change or process and when employees have a sense they can make a difference. As with all people, commitment comes through contribution to the bigger picture.

David Meador drove home the call to public service message by challenging alumni to decide what each person would do to make a difference. He spoke about the many challenges in his life and how he learned to turn those obstacles into opportunities. As a blind man from the age of 18 and a two-time cancer survivor, he sees the world differently than most and does not allow distractions to keep him from reaching his goals. Mr. Meador is a National Champion on Blind Golf, and is a recent winner of the Masters of Blind Golf. He also has to his credit three holes in one. He states that his talent is "giving people the courage to let go; let go of those options in life that are no longer really important; and jump all over those that are!" The audience responded to his exciting and inspiring challenge with a moving standing ovation.







TGEI Holiday Breakfast

Around 100 TGEI alumni gathered on Tuesday morning, December 12, 2006 at Ellington Agricultural Center for the annual Holiday Breakfast. Buddy Lea, past Steering Committee Chair, welcomed the group, and the Department of Personnel's Commissioner, Deborah E. Story, shared some thoughts for the year to come. The 129th Army Band presented a spectacular array of holiday music.

The TGEI Steering Committee recognized Nat E. Johnson for the years of commitment and contributions to TGEI and awarded him a plaque of appreciation. Buddy Lea announced the results of the Steering Committee election. The new 2007 Steering Committee members are: Jack Elder (Class of 2004), Tracy Carter (Class of 2001) George Zukotynski (Class of 2004) - Vice Chair.

This year's TGEI charity was St. Jude's Children Hospital. The total donation to St. Jude's was \$2700.

Thanks to Gene Nafieh and the TGEI "Cooking Crew" for a delicious breakfast and to Kendra Gipson, the members of the Holiday Breakfast Committee and the Steering Committee for planning such a special morning.













Leadership development is alive and well in State Government, as the TGEI and TGMI programs continue to instill in their respective alumni a keen sense of purpose, and a network of colleagues with whom they can share common problems and solutions.

The 2006-year saw the return of Brown Bag Lunches to the calendar that had been part of the program in past years. In May, Comptroller of the Treasury, John Morgan, discussed with TGEI and TGMI alumni a vision for a new way to fund

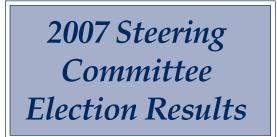
public K-12 education in Tennessee. In September, alumni were treated by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency to a tour of the newly renovated, high-tech Emergency Operation Center, the center of planning and response in times of natural or man-made disasters.

The Second Annual TGEI/TGMI Golf Tournament brought out the competitive and playful spirit on a hot day in July. Camaraderie and hook-shots were the order of the day, as players were awed by the trajectory (or lack of trajectory) of the eclectic combination of "ringers" and "duffers."

The Fall Conference, "The Call to Public Service," was a big success with outstanding presentations from Commissioner Goetz on what we are currently doing to make a difference and what are our challenges for the future, Jerry Bukiewicz of the Sterling Institute on meeting the challenge public service, and an inspiring call to action by David Meador.

As is our tradition, we closed the year with the TGEI Holiday Breakfast where we took time to give thanks for all of our Blessings and share our love for one another wrapped in the spirit of the season.

It has been a pleasure to serve with you this year, Buddy Lea 2006 TGEI Steering Committee Chair



The TGEI Alumni Network will again have strong leadership for the 2007 calendar year. Like a living organism, the TGEI Steering Committee refreshes its membership each year as valued leaders roll off the Committee and newly elected members roll on, with fresh energy and new ideas to perpetuate the growth and value of the alumni network.

We offer a big thanks for the selfless service provided to us all by those rolling off the Committee: Joe Swinford ('03), Renee Jackson ('98), Marva Bradford ('85), Tracy Stinson ('04), and Martha Staley ('04). Newly elected

as Vice Chair for 2007 was George Zukotinsky ('04). Jack Elder ('04) and Tracy Carter ('01) were elected as at-large members. Elected to represent the Class of 2006 were Emily Wilson, Kathy Anderson, and Leslie Sperazza.

The full Committee for 2007 will look like this:

Officers

Chair, Karen Hale, (2004), Comptroller's Office Vice-Chair, George Zukotynski (2004), Division of Mental Retardation Past Chair, Buddy Lea (1999), F&A

Class of 2005 Serving 2006-2007 Trent Ridley (2005), THDA Kendra Gipson (2005), F&A Jeanne Stevens (2005), TDOT

Class of 2006 Serving 2007-2008 Emily Wilson (2006), BOPP Kathy Anderson (2006) Comptroller's Office Leslie Sperazza ('06) DHS At-Large Members Serving 2006-2007 Ron Maupin (2000), F&A Larry Richardson (1997) THDA

At-Large Members Serving 2007-2008 Jack Elder (2004), BOPP Tracy Carter (2001), TDEC

Ex-Officio Lynn Goodman (2002), DOP

Trip to New York Michael Thomason (Class of 2004)

As I had mentioned to some of my classmates, I traveled to Buffalo NY on September 19th to see the Dalai Lama. I stayed over for two days and also visited Lockport (where the State of New York has preserved some of the original locks of the Erie Canal), Niagara Falls, the Darwin Martin complex (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) and the Anchor Bar where they created "Buffalo Wings". Here are some notes I made about the trip.

Although I first studied Buddhism in a college class, I did not develop an

interest in it until I was in my 30's. At that time, I was general counsel for a company that was doing construction work in Saudi Arabia and had the opportunity to participate in the negotiation of several large contracts. One of those contracts involved a big Korean firm with offices in the World Trade Center. I remember three things about my trips to New York. First, how enormous those Towers were. Take the Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, multiply it by 8 or 10 and you may have one of the WTC towers. Second, how a martini tastes (i.e. chilled aviation fuel served with an olive). Third, how calm and detached our Korean counterparts seemed during those days of intense negotiation. One evening at the bar in our midtown Manhattan hotel, I made a comment about their demeanor to an older, more seasoned co-worker. He shrugged and replied, "Well, they're Buddhists." That piqued my curiosity and over the next few months, I read several books on Buddhism. While I am not a Buddhist, I have continued to read about it through the years. Here is the official website for the Dalai Lama's visit: http://www.buffalo.edu/dalai lama/

You'll see a link for "Video" and there you will find streaming video of the Dalai Lama's address to more than 30,000 people at the University of Buffalo football stadium. You'll also find video for the sand mandala consecration ceremony, the sand mandala time-lapse and the sand mandala deconstruction ceremony, all of which I found very interesting. (Please do not watch them at work, as OIR will frown on it. Right, Van?)

The following day, I drove to Lockport, New York, where they have preserved some of the original locks of the Erie Canal. What an incredible civil engineering feat the Erie Canal was! Begun in 1819 and opened in 1825, the Canal was 360 miles long and connected Lake Erie in Western New York and the Hudson River at Albany in Eastern New York. Lake Erie is more than 500 feet higher than the Hudson River and 83 locks were required to lower or raise the boats on their journeys back and forth across the state. Even today, it would be a great feat but they did it 180 years ago. <u>http://www.lockport-ny.com/Tourism/canal.htm http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erie_canal</u>

From Lockport, I drove due west to Niagara Falls. The city of Niagara Falls, New York is not pretty. It's a frayed, tired old place with boarded up buildings and small clusters of the chronically unemployed every few blocks. The Falls, however, and the river that feeds them are every bit as impressive as you've heard. I was awed. What is even more astonishing is that half of the water that flows down the Niagara River (which is the "drain" for the Great Lakes) is diverted to hydroelectric plants above the Falls and released below it. So, only half of the water goes over the Falls but it is still a spectacle. The Canadians have done a much better job with their side, by the way. http://www.city.niagarafalls.on.ca/

From Niagara Falls, I drove south along the Niagara River, over Grand Island and back to Buffalo to see the Darwin Martin complex, one of the residences designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. There are four in the Buffalo area, which gives you an idea of how affluent Buffalo was 100 years ago. Great fortunes were made, initially from shipping along the Great Lakes and the Erie Canal, and later from numerous industries that were attracted to the area because of the abundant electricity produced by the hydroelectric plants along the Niagara River. Presidents Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland lived in Buffalo. In 1900, there were 60 millionaires in Buffalo, an amazing statistic. Today, however, there are blighted areas of Buffalo, much like the city of Niagara Falls, but a lot has been saved and the preservation movement is very active. http://freenet.buffalo.edu/bah/a/jewett/125/marext/

I finished my day with a visit to the Anchor Bar in downtown Buffalo. My friend Jim Graf, a teacher at Nashville State, is a native of Buffalo and told me that a trip to his old hometown would not be complete without a trip to the Anchor Bar and a plate of "Wings". Apparently, that's where Buffalo Wings were created in 1964. (Well, Jim, I did it but there aren't enough Tums in the world for me to eat more.) <u>http://www.anchorbar.com/</u>Here are a few closing thoughts. The countryside in western New York is beautiful. From Lockport to the Falls, I drove along country roads. The landscape was lush and green with neat, little white houses. All had steep-pitched roofs. The lawns were mowed and the flower beds well attended. I saw a lot of fruit trees and many of the little houses had vegetable gardens in their side or back yards.

I stayed at the Ramada in Amherst, just north of the University at Buffalo campus. One evening, I had dinner in the hotel restaurant. Two professors were eating at the next table. I commented on how pleasant the weather had been. One replied, "We have three beautiful seasons in Buffalo. And then we have winter." I can only imagine.

Without exception, the people I met were pleasant and hospitable. They were quick to offer help and directions and I did get lost a time or two. Many seemed subdued, however, almost melancholy. With winter just around the corner, I guess anybody would be, but I think it's also due to the economic situation in the area. I talked with several people who mentioned that a number of businesses had closed including a large automotive plant, good jobs were difficult to find and many young people were moving elsewhere. Obviously, much has changed from a hundred years ago when Buffalo was one of the most prosperous cities in the country. Regardless, there is still much to see and I would like to go back again. After all, there are three Frank Lloyd Wright houses I didn't get to see and another day at Niagara Falls would suit me fine.

Destination: New Orleans - Again? Lori K. Cain (Class of 2006) Ever since I witnessed the devastating remnants of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 on TV, I have had a desire to go and help the victims of the storm. Not since 9/11 have I experienced such a heartfelt compassion for the people whose lives were impacted or even lost at the hands of what could arguably be the two most major tragedies to occur on U.S. soil in the last five years.

Well, much to my delight, my church organized a group of our college and career members to go and assist with Hurricane Katrina Relief with a college campus organization called *Impact*. In March

2006, approximately six months after the hurricane hit New Orleans, a team of eight of us went to New Orleans where we were able to, with the help with about three other students from *Impact*, "gut" approximately a 1,400 sq. ft. home in two days. The home belonged to a young single woman who had relocated to Baton Rouge along with members of her family. "Gutting" a house consists of stripping it down to the frame internally. It was the hardest, but the most rewarding, work I have ever done in my life. I helped build a Habitat Home before, but tearing a house down while removing personal valuables and memories of someone's life brought the experience to a new level for me.

My team members and I were very grateful to be able to help at least one person in the two days. As part of our time there, we were given a tour of the city including the lower Ninth Ward, where the levies were breached and the hardest hit area of New Orleans. Seeing the signs of life left amongst what was once a neighborhood and now looked like a war zone, I was left speechless. After witnessing how much work was left to be done, my team and I expressed a sincere desire to return to do more work.

The opportunity to return came in November 2006, which was why, unfortunately, I missed the TGI conference. On this trip, a team of 13, including three children (ages 11-12 years,) was able to "gut," in two days, approximately a 2,200 sq. ft. home belonging to an elderly couple. It was evident that the homeowner's were in the process of remodeling and adding onto their home. We found amongst the water-damaged items a new kitchen sink that was still sitting on a workbench awaiting installation. On the third day of our trip, we also were able to assist a middle-age couple who had began to rebuild do some clean up work at their home.

Our team has committed to return to New Orleans twice a year to help the community to rebuild one house at a time, if that is all we can do. Just like the TGEI/TGMI experience, I learned that you have a moment in your life where you are faced with a decision to act on what you learned, witnessed or are compelled to do that will make a positive impact in this world.

If you are interested in helping the people of Louisiana, Mississippi or Alabama who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina, you can Google "Hurricane Katrina Relief" and you will find several organizations that you may contact to "lend a hand." Also, if you are interested in how you can help with my next trip to New Orleans tentatively scheduled for March 2007, please contact me at (615) 532-7056. Destination: New Orleans - again!





Class News



Class of 1987

After retiring from state government in 2004, *Mike Countess* took a position with the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) as Policy Analyst. Duties include congressional liaison work on Southern forest resource issues which means a lot of time in DC. My wife, Becky, and I are enjoying a new granddaughter and a recently completed home in Cottontown. Hope this finds ya'll well and prosperous!

After serving almost 32 years with the State, *Kent Taylor* retired in November 2006. Not one to sit on his laurels, he will work as a regional regulatory consultant with Infiltrator Systems, Inc. He will have the best of both worlds as he will work from home and do some traveling. Congratulations and good luck in your new venture!

Class of 1999

Darrell Alley has become the Senior Associate Pastor at the River of Life church in Smyrna, TN. He commenced his pastoring responsibilities upon retirement from the State of Tennessee in December 2004. Laura and Darrell just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and will celebrate with a 10 day trip and cruise to Hawaii in February, 2007. As his schedule permits, he provides investigation consulting services through the National Institute of Corrections and American University School of Law in Washington, DC. "The TGEI learning experience continues to provide invaluable leadership and life principles as I pursue my calling. I attempt to utilize and appropriate the principles every day to those men and women who are entrusted to my pastoral and teaching responsibilities. To all of my TDOC colleagues and my TGEI family, I remain eternally thankful!"

Class of 2001

Tim Townsend has been named deputy director for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Tim is a 25-year veteran of State government, including 17 years with the court system.

Class of 2002

After becoming a new father, *David Neiger* sent the following message: I am happy to report Carol and I became the proud parents of a 6 lbs 7 oz baby girl Saturday September 2nd at 5:13 a.m. Both mother and baby are doing exceptionally well, however, dad is fearing the ensuing sleep deprivation. We could not ask for a more special blessing. For all of you that held us in your prayers, thanks.

Class of 2003

Eva Mosby received her MPA, Master of Public Administration, from the University of Memphis. Congratulations!

Eugene Neubert has been promoted to the assistant commissioner for Administrative Services in the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Reagan Farr has been appointed by Governor Bredesen as Commissioner of the Department of Revenue. Farr has served as Deputy Commissioner and as an assistant commissioner with the Department of Revenue since 2003. As the agency's primary legislative liaison and tax policy coordinator, he worked with the General Assembly to pass four consecutive tax packages that introduced no new taxes in the state. Before joining state government, Farr worked in the state and local tax department of the Ernst & Young accounting firm. Farr is a Louisiana State University graduate and holds his law degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Congratulations Reagan!

Class News Continued

Class of 2005

Gary Cookston was recently promoted to assistant administrator of Workforce Regulations and Compliance (including the Divisions of Boilers and Elevators, Labor Standards, Research and Statistics, and Mines) for the Department of Transportation. Congratulations!

Kendra Gibson has a new job. She is now the CoverRX Program Director for the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Insurance. Congrats, Kendra!

Stephani Ryan has recently accepted a new position as the director of CoverTN for the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Insurance. She will be developing and overseeing the CoverTN program operations as well as traveling across the state promoting the CoverTN to various small business owner, employees, small business associations, and insurance agents. Way to go!

Class of 2006

Alicia Williams (daughter of *Melinda Williams*) was elected Tennessee Tech University (in Cookeville) 2006 Homecoming Queen by her peers and faculty during the TTU Homecoming football halftime November 11th. Alicia is a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies and works in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs and also has an after-school program at Sylvan Learning Center in Cookeville. She is a Phi Mu sorority sister and very active with Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.





TGEI Class Reporters for 2007

The newsletter staff is always looking for updates, stories, good news, etc., on our fellow alumni. In order to accomplish this, we utilize "Class Reporters" representing every one of the TGEI Classes. The reporters for 2004 will be contacting you via e-mail, telephone or in person to pick your brain on any information you might have regarding fellow classmates as well as your own update. Please contribute information because your input is what makes this network so very viable. Listed below are the latest class reporters:

| Class Year 1983 | Name Robert Bumbalough | Telephone Number 615-313-4715 | E-mail Address Robert.Bumbalough@state.tn.us |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1984 | Ken Becker | 615-741-3461 | Ken.Becker@state.tn.us |
| 1985 | Marva Bradford | 615-741-8635 | Marva.Bradford@state.tn.us |
| 1986 | Pat Dishman | 615-741-8267 | Patricia.Dishman@state.tn.us |
| 1987 | Carolyn J. West | 865-594-7034 | Carolyn.J.West@state.tn.us |
| 1988 | Bill McClanahan | Retired | gg.mc@comcast.net |
| 1989 | Pat Totty | 615-253-6179 | Patricia.Totty@state.tn.us |
| 1990 | John Casey | 615-532-1284 | John.Casey@state.tn.us |
| 1991 | Ron Erickson | 615-741-6548 | Ronald.Erickson@state.tn.us |
| 1993 | Brenda Clark | 615-741-2107 | Brenda.Clark@state.tn.us |
| 1994 | Robert Barlow | 615-741-8285 | Robert.Barlow@state.tn.us |
| 1996 | Quincy Styke | 615-532-0562 | Quincy.Styke@state.tn.us |
| 1997 | Cathy Posey | 615-253-8094 | Catherine.Posey@state.tn.us |
| 1998 | Gary Godsey | Retired | Gary.Godsey@state.tn.us |
| 1999 | Sue Quick | 615-837-5049 | Sue.Quick2@state.tn.us |
| 2000 | Barbara Charlet | 615-532-5959 | Barbara.Charlet@state.tn.us |
| 2001 | Deborah Wallace Copeland | 404-651-6431 | dcopeland@oig.ga.gov |
| 2002 | Jean Stone | 615 741-2094 Ext. 198 | Jean.A.Stone@state.tn.us |
| 2003 | Carol Freeman | 615 781-6639 | Carol.Freeman@state.tn.us |
| 2004 | Michael Thomason | 615 741-1857 | Michael.Thomason@state.tn.us |
| 2005 | Dawn Darden | 615 253-0045 | Dawn.Darden@state.tn.us |
| 2006 | Melinda Williams | 615 253-4089 | <u>Melinda.Williams@state.tn.us</u> |

TGEI Alumni Network Mission Statement

To Enhance the effectiveness of executives in **Tennessee State** Government through education, fostering personal networking strategies, developing new leaders and practical application of principles of contemporary management philosophies.