

THE BLUE PAGES...



Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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From the Desk of the Secretary...

As I began my second year as Secretary of State, I took the opportunity to reflect on the successes of the department over the past year and review our priorities. In this first issue of our newsletter, I would like to share some of them with you.

Our first year has been marked by the challenging financial times in which we live. In spite of our budgetary limitations, I am pleased to report a number of achievements. With limited resources, our office continues to raise the standard for efficient and effective delivery of services for the citizens of our great state.

One of my goals has been to better inform Tennesseans about the services offered by the Office of the Secretary of State. To our staff, I have emphasized accountability to the citizens and the importance of providing more profes-

sional and efficient customer service. I

Spotlight...

SECRETARY HARGETT ON TWITTER

Tennesseans now have access to real time updates from Secretary of State Tre Hargett through Twitter.

See full story on pg. 6

believe this focus on the taxpayers is making it easier to do business with this office.

I am extremely proud of the nearly 400 Department of State employees who have embraced this customer-driven culture. I am determined to take the resources offered by the Office of the Secretary of State from the halls of the State Capitol to the people of this great state.

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It has been my pleasure to travel the state to hear from local leaders, members of citizen groups and other Tennesseans. In response to their needs, here are some of the practical steps we have taken to more efficiently provide our services:

- Delivered a new and improved [Department of State website](#).
- Implemented true online annual report filing for corporations.
- Implemented true online charitable organization and professional solicitor registration.
- Prevented “graveyard” voting in Tennessee by removing more than 10,000 deceased voters from the voter registration rolls.
- Partnered with District Attorneys General throughout the state to prosecute felons who have voted illegally.
- Trained and assisted 37 election administrators in becoming certified.
- Laid the groundwork with Treasurer David Lillard and Comptroller Justin Wilson to bring greater transparency to the designer selection process of the State Building Commission.
- Began utilizing the social networking site, Twitter, to announce candidate filing deadlines, election results and other news unique to the Office of the Secretary of State.

In addition to oversight of the department, I have been active on 16 boards and commissions, some of which require significant time commitments. I have included a list of those boards and commissions below. I am pleased to be able to look out for the interests of Tennessee taxpayers by actively participating in so many areas of state government. I am always happy when citizens help me make informed decisions by providing input about business that is scheduled to be considered by these boards and commissions. The boards and commissions are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Baccalaureate Education System Trust (BEST) | 11. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) |
| 2. Board of Equalization | 12. Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) |
| 3. Board of Claims | 13. Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) |
| 4. Chairs of Excellence Trust (CET) | 14. Tennessee Local Development Authority (TLDA) |
| 5. Library and Archives Management Board, Chairman | 15. Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation |
| 6. Public Records Commission (PRC), Chairman | 16. Tennessee State School Bond Authority (TSSBA) |
| 7. State Building Commission (SBC) | |
| 8. State Capitol Commission | |
| 9. State Funding Board (SFB) | |
| 10. State Trust of Tennessee | |

Please take a moment to visit our website at www.state.tn.us/sos. And do not hesitate to contact me about the Department of State whenever I can be of assistance (Tre.Hargett@tn.gov).

Sincerely,



BLUE BOOK DEDICATION TO FALLEN VETERANS

As a tribute to our state's military veterans, the Tennessee Department of State has dedicated the 2009-2010 Tennessee Blue Book to all the Tennesseans who have been killed in combat during the War on Terror.

"Tennessee has long been known for its spirit of volunteerism," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "I think dedicating the Blue Book to the men and women who have given their lives in combat is a fitting tribute to that spirit of volunteerism."

More than 14,000 Tennesseans have been serving in military units involved in the War on Terror, including about 84 percent from the state's National Guard units. At the end of October, when the Blue Book was published, 108 Tennesseans had lost their lives

during the conflict.

The Blue Book, published every two years, provides a wealth of information about Tennessee state government and history.

It is used throughout the state as a reference book by schoolchildren, educators, archivists, journalists, government officials and other citizens.



MAN CHARGED FOR RUNNING BOGUS CHARITY

A man faces possible prison time and at least \$40,000 in civil penalties after fraudulently representing himself as a Robertson County deputy sheriff who was raising money for a charitable publication to be produced by the sheriff's office.

"I hope this arrest will discourage other people from trying to pose as charitable fundraisers and scam citizens out of their hard-earned money," said Secretary of State

Tre Hargett. "These unscrupulous individuals need to be aware that the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming and local law enforcement officials are on the lookout for them. And when these types of scams are discovered, there are serious consequences for the people who run them."

Learn about a charity before you donate:
Call the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming at 615-741-2555 or visit:
<http://tnsos.org/charitable/CharitableOrgReports.php>

MAKING SURE GRAVEYARD VOTING IN TN NO LONGER EXISTS...

Tennessee’s Division of Elections has identified more than 10,000 deceased voters who should be removed from voter registration rolls across the state.

When Secretary of State Tre Hargett appointed Mark Goins as Coordinator of Elections last year, they set a goal to remove deceased voters from the voter rolls.

“Secretary Hargett made it very clear to me during the interview process he wanted dead people off the voter rolls,” Goins said. “It is despicable that someone would use the names of the deceased to commit voter

fraud. Dead people can’t vote. Our goal is to make sure they don’t.”

As a matter of practice, county election administrators purge deceased voters on a regular basis. However, sometimes names of the deceased voters aren’t caught during that process.

“We owe it to properly registered Tennesseans to ensure the voter rolls include only eligible voters,” said Secretary Hargett. “We are working diligently to provide the utmost confidence in Tennessee’s elections.”



RETIRED STATE LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST HONORED

The Tennessee Library Association has passed a resolution honoring former State Librarian and Archivist Jeanne Sugg for dedicating her career to improving libraries throughout the state.

Kevin Reynolds, the library association’s president, said: “Jeanne has been a strong advocate for our libraries and her unflagging efforts over many years have resulted not only in libraries in Tennessee becoming better prepared to assist library users, but also have resulted in library users more easily gaining the critical services and resources that libraries provide. Furthermore, under

Jeanne’s leadership, we have witnessed increased access to important archival resources, thanks to digitization and other efforts.”

Sugg retired Jan. 29, capping a 20-year career with the Tennessee State Library and Archives. She had served as the State Library and Archives director since 2005.



SHERRILL RETURNS TO TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

As the agency that collects, stores and displays state documents and records, the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) plays an important role in preserving the past.

So it's fitting that Charles Sherrill is now directing TSLA's operations. While the former Brentwood Library director is busy making plans for TSLA's future, he has a good understanding of the organization's past, too.

Prior to his 10-year stint in Brentwood, Sherrill was TSLA's director of public services. In that job Sherrill worked under the supervision of Jeanne Sugg, whom he replaced as State Librarian and Archivist in February.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett said Sherrill's training and experience, which also includes time as director of the Cleveland (Tenn.) Public Library, made him a good fit at TSLA.

"I am pleased to have someone with Mr. Sherrill's background and skills in this esteemed position," Secretary Hargett said.

"Our goal is to increase the awareness of the great programs available to Tennesseans through the State

Library and Archives. We must extend our outreach beyond our downtown Nashville location and I know Mr. Sherrill will provide excellent leadership and vision to not only TSLA, but also to libraries throughout our great state."

In addition to preserving official state records, TSLA operates the Tennessee Regional Library System, oversees the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and provides training and support for public libraries throughout the state.

Sherrill said he's very excited about his return to TSLA.

"I am honored to be part of the Secretary of State's staff and delighted to be the new State Librarian and Archivist," Sherrill said. "My two greatest interests are Tennessee history and public libraries – and this position allows me to make a difference in both of those areas."



SECRETARY HARGETT ON TWITTER

Twitter users who sign up to follow “[SecTreHargett](#)” will get up-to-the-minute information about the latest news releases posted on the department website, as well as election results, deadlines for voter registration and candidate qualifying, reminders about business and charitable organization filing deadlines and more.

“Twitter is another form of communication our department can use to relay information to the citizens of Tennessee,” Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. “Social media outlets like Twitter are becoming increasingly popular. I believe this will be a very convenient and useful service.” For more information, visit <http://help.twitter.com>

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