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Please send your news and photos to
Newsletter Editor Michelle Honick,
City of Berry Hill, 698 Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN 37204
or e-mail to mhonick@berryhilltn.net.
We want to include YOU!!!!!!

TAMCAR Secretary Jason Griggs (Milan) and his group, The Joylanders, will perform at Silver Dollar City’s Southern Gospel Picnic Series at the theme park on August 30th, sharing the bill with DA Calloway. For more info, check with www.silverdollarcity.com. The concerts are free with park admission.

Secretary Jason Griggs (Milan), Treasurer Debbie Hedgepath (Brentwood) and President Allison Myers (Farragut)
THANK YOU, LANAI!

Lanaii Benne of Franklin has done a remarkable job of representing us as Region V Director for the IIMC over the past three years. She has served as the regional director not just for Tennessee, but also for Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana.

Lanaii rolled off the IIMC Board at the end of the May international conference, and we know they'll miss her ideas, positive attitude and smile at their meetings. Lanaii also is a past president of TAMCAR who remains an active and dedicated member of our organization. We appreciate everything you do for us, Lanaii, as well as your attitude of constant professionalism and kindness!

TAMCAR's representatives at the IIMC International Conference in Omaha, Nebraska in May really rocked the required “Seventies dress code” look for the party! Flower power, hippies and Wonder Woman—what more could they ask for?!

FALL CONFERENCE COMING UP SOON!

Remember to make plans to attend our Fall Conference, Institute and Academy at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro on September 14th-16th.

It's sure to be packed with great information and wonderful opportunities to network!

If you'd like to contribute a door prize (gift cards and gift baskets are particularly popular) and/or an auction item, it would be much appreciated. Auction items can be anything from a bottle of wine, a basket full of snacks or gourmet food, artwork, entertainment or sports memorabilia, electronic equipment or accessories, art supplies, a basket of cool office supplies... your only limit is your imagination!
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I enter into my last conference planning period, I am honored to have worked with all of you! TAMCAR has seen a few changes and I wanted to thank you for your help in working through the “hiccups” during the transition!

Over the next few months, one of the board's goals is to evaluate which cities/towns are not represented in TAMCAR, reach out to them and assist in any way possible. TAMCAR is such a great resource, whether its needing advice or just having fun with friends, the board wants to make sure every clerk across Tennessee has the opportunity for assistance and education. So, if you have a sister city that is not a member of TAMCAR please reach out or let a board member know so we can familiarize them with TAMCAR and the resources it offers.

The board is also looking for volunteers for various committees and a volunteer for the 2-year treasurer position. It's time to get involved in YOUR professional organization. For more information please visit https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/. Please be sure to check the website as well for future conference dates and locations. As a reminder, the Fall Conference is September 14-16 at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro.

Hope you all have a great summer, and I'll see you in September!
Allison Myers, TAMCAR President

Former President Shirley Dancy with President Allison Myers at the Fall 2015 Conference

IT'S A MYSTERY!

Michelle Honick (Berry Hill) had the pleasure of meeting and dining with two of her favorite mystery writers recently. In February, she and fellow Sisters-In-Crime writers group member Jaden Terrell traveled to Mobile, AL to visit with Carolyn Haines, Southern author extraordinaire. Carolyn writes several series, including the immensely popular Sarah Booth Delaney Mysteries (just released: Rock-A-Bye Bones), and also operates a farm housing about 30 rescued horses, dogs and cats in the Mobile area. Michelle and Jaden celebrated Mardi Gras weekend with Carolyn and had the pleasure of visiting her home and farm, as well as speaking to a university class taught by Carolyn. She exceeded all expectations, being down-to-earth, generously encouraging and so hilarious it was easy to imagine her as a stand-up comedienne.

In May, best-selling author Elaine Viets, author of several series herself, including the Dead End Job Mysteries (just released: The Art of Murder) spoke to the Middle Tennessee chapter of Sisters-In-Crime, and went to dinner with several of the group’s members. As a long-time member, Michelle was lucky enough to be included, and was charmed by Elaine's kindness, inclusiveness and humor. As an added bonus in what's turned out to be a “favorite writers” year, best-selling authors Janet Evanovich and Robert Randisi will be honored guests at the upcoming Killer Nashville writers' conference, which Michelle plans to attend. (If you’re interested, go to www.killernashville.com for info.)
BETTY MODRALL - WE’LL MISS YOU

It is with heavy hearts that we notify you of the unexpected death of long-time TAMCAR member Betty Modrall. Betty passed away on March 15th after a bout with pneumonia. Working for her city since June 11, 1956 and City Recorder since 1970, she was Columbia’s longest-serving employee.

Columbia’s City Manager Tony Massey said, “We have lost a Columbia legacy. You just don’t see that type of long-term commitment in today’s world. The city of Columbia will move on, but we will never forget her.” Councilwoman Debbie Matthews said, “The city will be forever changed, and this is a loss like no other we have ever had. We had her, her photographic memory, and expertise of all things for 59 years. She will be impossible to replace.”

Mayor Dean Dickey remembered her cheerfulness and tireless dedication. “She worked all the way up until it was quitting time. The citizens of Columbia and Maury County have lost a dedicated public service employee...and we will miss her greatly.” Her city’s affection and respect for Betty were exhibited when all current and retired city employees served as honorary pallbearers at her funeral March 19th. Betty’s family requested that any memorial donations be made to the Highland Church of Christ Building Fund (497 E. James Campbell Blvd., Columbia, TN 38401) or to The Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX 75219).

TAMCAR won’t be the same without you, Betty.

DOTTY JOHNSON HAS OFFICIALLY RETIRED

TAMCAR President’s Award recipient Dotty Johnson retired from her 26-year employment with Germantown on May 1st. The City Clerk and Recorder told The Commercial Appeal that she plans to baby-sit her great-grandchildren, sew (on five machines, including her grandmother’s treadle), be active in church and spend more time with her husband of almost 55 years. Her Board of Mayor and Aldermen tried their best to stop her from retiring, going so far as having each alderman sign a rejection of her resignation letter and then attempting to present the rejection letter to her at a meeting. Dottie didn’t back down, which is no surprise to those of us who know how direct, strong and truthful she is.

Alderman Rocky Janda told the newspaper that she was their mentor, speaking about her being honorable, adaptable, cooperative and patriotic. City Administrator Patrick Lawton called her capable, frank and kind. Her bound volumes of 13 years of minutes for the city’s commission and board meetings are kept on shelves in a special “Dotty’s Closet.” Her now-former position as City Clerk is one of only three posts appointed by her city government’s board. It’s obvious everyone at Germantown City Hall will miss her immensely.

Dotty has always been an important asset to TAMCAR, too, and we hope you’ll keep coming to our conferences. You deserve a great retirement full of all your favorite things!
CONGRATULATIONS, CURTIS!
Mayor Curtis Hayes of Livingston was honored in February with an IMPACT Cookeville Award. This award is a tribute to exceptional African-Americans who have been trail-blazers making an indelible impact in their communities. The award was presented at a black-tie fundraiser that provides four talented minority students with four-year scholarships to Tennessee Tech University. IMPACT Cookeville is an Upper Cumberland region Christian-based African American men's leadership group. We're proud of you, Curtis, and are honored to have you as a valued member of TAMCAR!

WELCOME TO MTAS' NEW MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIALIST
For those who weren't able to meet him at the Spring Court Clerks' Conference, we're happy to introduce you to Abner "Abb" Oglesby, our new municipal court specialist. He formerly was a special assistant attorney general in the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General, and is a welcome addition to the MTAS training and consultation team. He's already doing a great job, and those of us he already has helped are very appreciative. We're glad to have you on board in Tennessee, Abb!

JANICE CASTEEL IS RETIRING
Cleveland just isn't the same. For the first time in 42 years, Janice Casteel isn't officially serving her city. She's been City Manager since 2007, having begun working for Cleveland as a front-counter clerk receiving property tax payments in 1973. She later served as the City Accountant, City Clerk, Finance Officer, and Assistant City Manager. Janice cites the jetport, sales tax campaign, greenway and budgets as among her most satisfying projects over the years. Among her advice is to be open to learning new skills, to work as a team, to serve the community in a welcoming atmosphere, to volunteer for more duties as soon as others are completed and to do your work well and with a smile. She told TML Communications Specialist Kate Coil that she felt her title should be Chief Public Servant instead of City Manager. She credited the city council members, fellow employees and all others who have supported her in her 42 years with the city. She also thanked MTAS and TML for all they do for city employees and officials. She retired May 31st.
Janice's husband Danny retired from Bradley High School at the end of May, so the couple plans a special family vacation at the beach with their three grandchildren this summer. They also plan camping trips to national parks in their RV, though Cleveland can be assured they won't be moving away from Janice's beloved city.
Janice has been a treasured and loyal member of TAMCAR, and we all wish you a relaxing, happy and adventurous retirement. We also hope you'll still come to see us at our conferences because we'd miss you and your smile, otherwise, Janice!
Was this really five years ago?! Zeda Hillis (Spencer), Cindy Mitchell (Knoxville) and Marilyn Swing (Nashville) at the Tennessee-hosted International IIMC Conference at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville in the spring of 2011.

Waiting for the IIMC banquet to begin.

The Tennessee delegation to the 2011 International IIMC Conference at the Opryland Hotel. Everyone showed great Southern hospitality to IIMC members from all over the world!