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INDUSTRY

NEWS



TIDC Looking Forward To A Great 2005

**President
 Kim Denton**

This is an exciting time to be in Tennessee, and your TIDC board of directors is working hard to make this organization even stronger. We just wrapped up a great conference in Destin last month. Many thanks go to Kyle Spurgeon and Suzie Lusk for putting together a great program and to the many sponsors who helped make the conference possible.

During the TIDC board meeting held just prior to the conference, we voted to return to Destin in the spring of 2005. This decision met with a resounding positive response during the TIDC membership meeting. The conference will be held in late April or early May, so be watching for a save-the-date announcement in the near future.

Several other topics were discussed during the TIDC membership meeting. We are working on making the TIDC web site more user friendly with more timely information. The board is also evaluating the scholarship program. Currently, the maximum scholarship awarded

is \$500, but we are looking at covering the cost of the basic economic development course or tuition for EDI. Stay tuned.

We are continuing to strengthen our partnership with ECD. The board is meeting with Commissioner Kisber quarterly to provide input regarding issues facing economic development across the state. TIDC and ECD also will be hosting a "mixer" in the near future to get to know all of the new faces at ECD.

Finally, this is *your* organization. The board needs input from you, the membership. We must work together to further strengthen TIDC. Some of you have contacted me recently to suggest new ideas or express your thoughts on certain issues and I really appreciate that. The success of TIDC depends on your involvement and participation, so please keep those ideas coming!

Once again TIDC members stepped up to the plate and sponsored various portions of the 2004 Fall Conference. Thanks to Randy Brewer for organizing the conference sponsorship program. Without the support from the following, the Fall Conference would not have been such a success:

TW Frierson Contractors, Inc.

Rentenbach Constructors, Inc.

Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development

Tennessee Valley Authority

CSX Transportation

Lauderdale County Economic & Community Development

Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon

Gresham, Smith & Partners

Rose Integrated Services

Matteson-Hudson Construction Company

Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce

Knestruck Construction

JESCO/Blaine Construction

Doster Construction

Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership

Oak Ridge Economic Partnership

East Tennessee Economic Development Agency

H & M Construction

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Maury Alliance

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

Plant Sites & Parks

South Central TN Development District

Tellico Reservoir Development Agency

Turner Universal Construction

Union Planters Bank-Selmer

Clarksville-Montgomery County Economic Development Council

West Tennessee Industrial Association



**Bedford County
Three-Star
Certification:
October 28, 2004**

**Commissioner
Matthew Kisber**

The Community Development Division of the Department of Economic and Community Development is excited about the implementation of the new Three-Star Program.

The new program is the result of a series of “listening” meetings throughout the state where they compiled suggestions and comments and began to lay the foundation for a comprehensive economic and community development program. The Community Development staff has worked with departments of the Governor’s Jobs Cabinet to formulate a program with guidelines and incentives for achievement. The new Three-Star slogan is “Excellence in Community Development.”

The Three-Star Program is designed as a road map to assist communities in their effort to achieve excellence in community and economic development. Participating communities will be guided through a comprehensive plan of essential criteria developed by local economic development professionals and with the cooperation of various state agencies. A necessary component of the new program is community incentives. Local leadership “buy-in” is of the utmost importance in the success of the program. The most effective means of assuring this “buy-in” is to offer incentives based on level of certification. The new Three-Star program offers a series of incentives that include reduction of local match on FastTrack and CDBG grants and an increase in “points” for CDBG regular round grants. Also, the program is continuing the matching grants from ECD for community marketing and promotional materials.

In January of this year, eight pilot communities were chosen to work with the department on the

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new Three-Star program. On October 28th, Bedford County became the first program to be certified under the new guidelines. Walt Wood, Bedford County CEO, greeted the ECD Review Team and expressed his community’s appreciation for being chosen as one of the pilot communities.

“Bedford County received their first Three-Star certification in 1994 and we are proud to continue the tradition of excellence in community development with the new program,” Wood said. “This program has brought all of our municipalities together and developing a five-year strategic economic development plan has been very beneficial to our partnership.”

Bedford County chose to highlight their existing industry program as its strength, and was awarded ‘visionary’ component points for their direct funding source for economic development and tourism efforts. The housing component also proved to be a very interesting component for the county. After choosing to establish a housing committee and conduct a needs assessment, they learned that there were many critical issues in housing that had not been realized before. The committee has now created an action plan to addresses these issues.

After reviewing the qualifications and requirements for the program, the Review Team certified the Bedford County program. The incentives offered by the new program reaped an immediate effect, as the City of Shelbyville was ready to submit a FastTrack application the next day.



By Deb Woolley
President
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

With John Kerry's concession call to President Bush Wednesday morning, the drama surrounding the 2004 federal elections seems to be coming to an end. But in Tennessee the drama might just be starting.

There are definitely some major changes in store for the General Assembly. We are definitely looking at a campaign of a new sort in the State Senate.

For the first time since Reconstruction, Republicans have gained control of the State Senate in an election, now holding a narrow 17-16 margin. Republicans gained control when Rep. Diane Black (R-Hendersonville) defeated Senate Pro Tempore Jo Ann Graves (D-Gallatin) and political newcomer Jim Tracy (R) defeated incumbent Sen. Larry Trail (D-Murfreesboro). Two other senators -- current Lt. Gov. John Wilder (D-Somerville) and Sen. Tommy Kilby (D-Wartburg) -- were GOP targets but easily won re-election. The GOP take-over positions Senator Ron Ramsey (R-Blountville) to possibly become the Senate's next speaker and the state's lieutenant governor. The 83-year-old Wilder said, however, that he expects to remain speaker as a Democrat over a Republican-majority body, in part, because of cross-party support from Republicans. A couple of Republican senators have admitted publicly that they will support him.

What happens will play out over the next two months but it poses real questions for how the Senate will operate -- and how we will operate with the Senate. Wilder has held his speaker's seat by working with Republicans, and, in fact, appointing Republicans chairman of several committees. The Senate can choose to

continue operating in a similar manner -- or it can change to a body organized differently, perhaps along party lines.

While the inner politics will take a while to shake out, the Senate is still basically the same with only a few new faces.

On the House side, there was little change. House leaders, including Speaker Jimmy Naifeh (D-Covington) and Majority Leader Kim McMillan (D-Clarksville) easily held on to their seats. Republican leaders Tre Hargett (R-Bartlett) and Charles Sargent (R-Franklin) also won easily. The major surprise, however, was the ouster of House Finance, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Tommy Head (D-Clarksville) by newcomer Curtis Jackson (R). The victory leaves House Democrats with a 53-46 majority.

At the Congressional level, all Tennessee incumbents in the House of Representatives were returned to office. Only Democrat Rep. Lincoln Davis had faced an active opponent, but in the end, he won easily. While no Tennessee U.S. Senators were running this year, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R) had a decided victory when the Republican majority in the U.S. Senate was increased to 55-45.



“...the drama surrounding the 2004 federal elections seems to be coming to an end. But in Tennessee the drama might just be starting.”



Welcome new TIDC members...

Since November, we've gained the following new TIDC members:

Cindy Raymond

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Calendar of Events 2 0 0 5

January 10-12

Medical Design & Manufacturing

Anaheim, CA

February 16

Legislative Reception with ECD & TCCE

Sheraton - Downtown Nashville, TN

March 7-10

National Association of Manufacturers

Chicago, IL

March 19-23

IAMC

Charleston, SC

April 11-14

SAE

Detroit, MI

April 16-20

CoreNet

Toronto, Ontario

April 27-29 (Tentative)

Spring Conference

Destin, FL