

Walt Wood Elected TEDC President, Eight Others Named To TEDC Board

Your board for the 2008-2009 year consist of:



Walt Wood
President,
(CEO of Shelbyville-Bedford
County Chamber of Commerce)



Tim Thompson
East Tennessee Director,
(President of Anderson County
Economic Development Association)



Paul Latture
Vice President,
(President/CEO of the Jackson
Area Chamber of Commerce)



Holly S. Weber
Middle Tennessee Director,
(Vice President of Economic Development
for Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce)



Donald Hurst
Secretary-Treasurer,
(President of Carter
County Tomorrow LLC)



Spencer Sessions
West Tennessee Director,
(TVA)



Doug Lawyer
Immediate Past President
/Legislative Liaison,
(Director of Economic Development for
Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership)



Mike Evans
SEDC Director,
(Vice President of Clarksville
Montgomery County EDC)



Paul LaGrange
State Liaison,
(TN Dept. of Economic &
Community Development)

Upcoming Meetings:
March 4, 2009
TEDC Day on the Hill
and Legislative Event
Nashville, TN
April 29th - May 1st 2009
Spring Conference
Destin, FL

For more info visit:
www.tnedc.com



Professional Of The Year, Volunteer Of The Year Announced At Fall Conference

During this year's annual awards banquet, two committed leaders in the economic development field were recognized for their dedication to our state and their communities. Matt Kisber was recognized as the Fred Harris Professional of the Year and Claude Ramsey was named the Jim Spradley Volunteer of the Year.

Matt Kisber, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, served 20 years in the State Legislature before his appointment as Commissioner in 2003. In the Legislature, Kisber was instrumental in crafting many of the programs and statutes that currently define Economic Development for the State of Tennessee. In the Tennessee General Assembly, Kisber served as chairman of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for the state's \$19.5 billion budget. He received state and national acclaim for his leadership, developing innovative solutions to a wide range of budgetary and business development challenges.

As Commissioner of the Tennessee Economic and Community Development Department, Kisber has worked to strengthen economic development partnerships both domestically and internationally. His keen focus on high-level customer service has proven successful when working with private industry, local governments, chambers of commerce and other economic development groups.

"Commissioner Kisber led the way as Tennessee had another banner year attracting over \$1.5

billion in new business investments and more than 12,000 new jobs," noted Walt Wood, TEDC President and CEO of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. "Matt Kisber has kept a consistent focus on developing business infrastructure in all parts of our state."

Under the direction of Governor Phil Bredesen, Commissioner Kisber's department developed Tennessee's FastTrack program, which provides timely responses and services to companies seeking to make an investment in Tennessee. FastTrack has quickly become recognized as one of the top economic development initiatives in the country.

"Tennessee is fortunate to have such a skilled group of economic development professionals and a governor who is a highly effective leader in economic development," said Kisber. "It is a sincere honor to receive this award from an organization that has done so much for the State of Tennessee."

Claude Ramsey has a distinguished record of public service and volunteerism. He served two terms as a State Representative in the Tennessee General Assembly. He was a member of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and served as Assessor of Property from 1980 to 1994. Claude Ramsey has served as the Hamilton County Mayor for the past fourteen years. His volunteer board service includes Chattanooga State Technical Community College, United Way, Erlanger Hospital, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprises, The Rivercity Company, and Orange Grove Center for the mentally handicapped and the Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department.

Mayor Ramsey has worked closely with the Chattanooga Chamber and Tennessee Department of Economic Development to generate



Claude Ramsey & Matt Kisber

economic opportunities. Senator Lamar Alexander, Congressman Zach Wamp and Governor Phil Bredesen all singled out Mayor Ramsey for his role in attracting the Volkswagen North America assembly plant to the Enterprise South Site. Congressman Wamp stated, "Claude Ramsey goes about his job quietly and with determination. When it comes to economic development, Claude gets things done."

Mayor Ramsey recently played a pivotal role in a \$200 million expansion at the Alstom plant in Chattanooga. He also secured federal funding for the development of the Hamilton County Center for Entrepreneurial Growth (CEG) that assists entrepreneurs in developing new businesses featuring advanced technology.

"Claude Ramsey is extremely deserving of this honor," said Walt Wood, TEDC President and Director of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. "He is an ambassador for the State of Tennessee's economic development efforts and his record of giving back to the community shows the true spirit of volunteerism."

"The Tennessee Economic Development Council is an organization I am proud to be associated with," stated Ramsey. "I am truly honored by this award."



Doug Lawyer, Matt Kisber and Walt Wood

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Past President's Message, Doug Lawyer

I want to thank TEDC members and the Board for allowing me the opportunity to serve as President of our organization over the past year and a half. During this time, I think we have continued doing what TEDC does best, providing a forum for discussion of economic development issues, and just as important, we have continued to offer exceptional opportunities for networking amongst our members.

I am especially proud of the work our Board has done to reach out to new members in our organization. Our retention rate for current members is strong, so it is important to nurture new members to grow our organization. You will continue to see new member orientation sessions held at both our Spring and Fall Conferences.

Finally, the Board of TEDC deserves a great deal of thanks. Their countless hours of work by all members of the Board to make our organization what it is today. There are always things that members can do to become involved whether it be to nominate someone for one of our annual awards, participate in a legislative study committee, help to organize a regional meeting, or refer a new member. It takes a group effort to make TEDC successful, and it's been an honor to lead this effort.

President's Message, Walt Wood

We're in for an exciting year which started with the Fall Conference, September 24-26, 2008 in Jackson, Tennessee. The excellent event was the result of President Elect Paul Latture, and ably assisted by Suzie Lusk. Our Annual Awards were presented to Volunteer of the Year Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey, and Professional of the Year Commissioner Matt Kisber. We had quite a few very informative sessions by Commissioners Farr, Kisber, and Neeley. In addition, we were treated to an overview of how Chattanooga landed the Volkswagen Project by Trevor Hamilton. There were also several other sessions on broadband, TVA, SEDC, UT/CIS, and Labor & Workforce Development.

Upcoming events will continue to follow our TEDC tradition of bringing value to our members with informative and useful topics at our meetings. Activities for 2009 will include Day on the Hill, Regional Meetings, plus the Spring and Fall Conferences.

During the coming year I plan to continue the focus on communications and involvement by members in events and activities. In addition, we must continue to support initiatives that help our state retain existing industries, and at the same time seek new investments that create jobs. With your help we can continue to have great events, take care of business, and have some fun doing it.

Please feel free to contact me anytime you have comments, questions, or suggestions. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your President. 931-684-3482 or wwceo@bellsouth.net.

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THURSDAY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

CN Railway

THURSDAY COFFEE BREAK

Doster Construction

LUNCH

Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce
Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber

THURSDAY EVENING RECEPTION

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THURSDAY EVENING DINNER

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TTL, Inc.
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FRIDAY

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

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