



MEMORANDUM

To: Ron French, Chair, Blount County Commission
Ed Mitchell, Mayor, Blount County Government

From: Bryan Daniels, President
Industrial Development Board of Blount County & the Cities of Alcoa & Maryville

Date: April 23, 2021

RE: New Industrial Board Appointment

The Industrial Development Board of Blount County & the Cities of Alcoa and Maryville submits the following three candidates to fill a six-year term on the Board of Directors. The candidates are ranked according to preference. They are as follows:

1. David Bennett, President of Bennett Management Group
2. Rick Shepard, Retired, & Leadership Blount
3. Steve West, West Chevrolet & West properties

We ask that during your next meeting that you appoint one of these community leaders to our Industrial Development Board of Blount County and the Cities of Alcoa & Maryville for a six-year term.

Bio for David (Dave) Bennett

Dave is the Founder and President of Bennett Management Group (BMG). Dave founded BMG in 2020. Prior to starting BMG, Dave served as CEO of Cherokee Millwright and Mechanical under the ownership of first, Randy Massey, and then Fortune 500 group EMCOR. Dave led Cherokee from 2010 to 2020. Prior to joining Cherokee, Dave was the Assistant County Mayor and Finance Director for Blount County Government. He served in this role for 11 years, from 1999 to 2010. Dave began his career as a State Auditor with the Tennessee Comptroller's Office, Division of County Audit, serving from 1990 to 1999.

Dave, in collaboration with the Blount Partnership, started Blount County's National Signing Day, a celebration of graduating high school students who are entering the work force.

Bennett was elected as a Blount County Commissioner for District 5.

Dave served as National Treasurer of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). In addition, Dave was President of the East TN AGA Chapter in 2001-02 and was the Southeastern Regional Vice-President in 2004-2005. He also served as President and board member of the TN Government Finance Officers Association (TGFOA).

Dave has served as Chairman of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Blount County Republican Party, Campaign Chairman of United Way of Blount County, Chair of the Blount County Relay for Life, Chair of the Blount County BBQ Bash, served on the Board of Directors of United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Blount, Children's Advocacy Center, Tellico Reservoir Development Agency, Heritage Museum Board and is a former member of the Tennessee P.O.S.T. Commission (Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission) appointed by the Tennessee General Assembly. Dave also served as Treasurer at Fairview United Methodist Church for many years. Dave and his wife Fran also host the annual July 4th Haven House BBQ. When not at work, Dave is a pit master with a professional BBQ team and enjoys golf.

He and his wife Fran have three children – Mikki, Hunter, and Lexi and three grandchildren – Violet, Asher, and Finley.

Rick Shepard

612 Eastwood Drive, Maryville, TN 37803

Education

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY – GRADUATE CLASS OF 1979

Experience

FORMER PRESIDENT – UNITED COMMUNITY BANK, INC., ALCOA, TN
2008 - Retired

REGIONAL PRESIDENT – SUNTRUST BANK
1984 – 2008

TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD – 134TH AIR REFUELING WING
1979-2000

Leadership/Community Service

- Currently serves on the Board of Directors as Chair for the Blount County Chamber of Commerce
- Campaign Chair for 2017 for United Way of Blount County
- Currently serves on the Blount County Election Commission
- Currently serves as Community Relations Manager for Leadership Blount
- Currently serves on the Blount Advisory Board for First Tennessee Bank

Steve West

- Former CEO of West Chevrolet
- Current President of West Properties, LLC
- West's involvement in the automobile business dates back to his grandfather, C. Eckles West, and included his father, Charles T. West, and now his son, Charles E. West. Under Steve West's ownership, West Chevrolet became one of the top-selling Chevrolet stores in the state.
- Well known for his leadership in numerous worthwhile Blount County efforts, West served as a member of Maryville College's Board of Directors from 2009 until 2014. He served as Maryville mayor from 1999 until 2003 and on Maryville City Council for 11 years. He also served in leadership positions with the Tennessee Automotive Association, Blount County Chamber Partnership, Blount County Industrial and Economic Development Board, Greater Knoxville Better Business Bureau and Blount County Chapter of the American Red Cross.
- A member of the Leadership Blount Class of 1999, he has also been a member of the University of Tennessee's Chancellor Associates and the state of Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission.
- *Time* magazine named him "Quality Auto Dealer of the Year" in Tennessee in 1993, and he won the Chevrolet Motor Division Silver Anniversary Award in 1998. He received the Blount Partnership Philanthropist of the Year Award in 2010 and the Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award from the Blount Mayor's Coalition in 2011. He was inducted into East Tennessee Junior Achievement's Business Hall of Fame in 2013. The Maryville City Schools Foundation has honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award and presented the Family Partnership Award to the West family.
- Longtime member of the Maryville College President's Circle, West and his family have given generously to several campus projects and initiatives, including the Clayton Center for the Arts and Fayerweather Hall construction, Clayton Center programming, Anderson Hall renovations, the Orchestra, Sutton Science Center improvements and professional development for faculty.