



INDUSTRY LEADER

AUGUST 2018

Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association

56th

2018 Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Economic Development Seminar



From left:
Bob Bibb, Chris Jones, Brian Taylor, Mark Kimbell, Keith Carnahan and Chris Davis
Not pictured: Rodney Boyd and Steven Moore

MTIDA held its annual meeting of the Board of Directors on July 26, 2018, at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The newly elected Executive Committee Members for 2018-2019 are:

President: Mark Kimbell

Gallatin Department of Electricity

Vice President: Keith Carnahan

Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

Secretary-Treasurer: Brian Taylor

CDE Lightband

Additional Executive Committee Members are:

Chris Jones, Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation

Rodney Boyd, McMinnville Electric System

Chris Davis, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Steven Moore, Tennessee Valley Authority

On July 27th, approximately 120 community, TN ECD, TVA, electric and natural gas distributors attended the Economic Development Seminar.

The keynote speaker was Jonathan Gemmons, with Austin Consulting. Mr. Gemmon's presentation was titled *Select Tennessee: Review of Lessons and Opportunities*.

Jason Brake and Jay Everett, TVA Economic Development Technical Services, gave a demonstration on the use of virtual reality for economic development purposes and on utilizing new software called SiteOps.

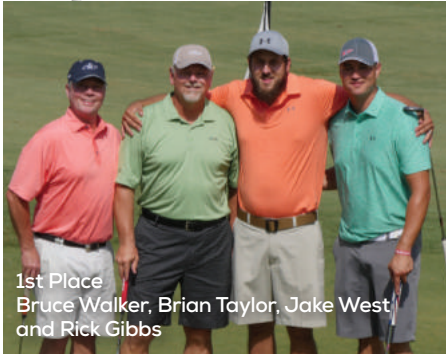
MTIDA Executive Director Bob Bibb and Assistant Director Kendrick Curtis presented MTIDA and Partner updates.

Lunch and the annual golf outing followed the seminar.





2018 Annual Golf Outing Winners



1st Place
Bruce Walker, Brian Taylor, Jake West
and Rick Gibbs



2nd Place
Tom Gregory, Larry Weber, Stan Smith
and Gene Gregory



3rd Place
Matt Davis, Danny Bertetti, Duane Thorpe
and Bob Lindeman

Tennessee Marks One Year of Historic Low Unemployment

NASHVILLE (July 2018) Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips released the statewide unemployment rate for June, and it marked an entire year the jobless figure in Tennessee was 3.5 percent or lower.

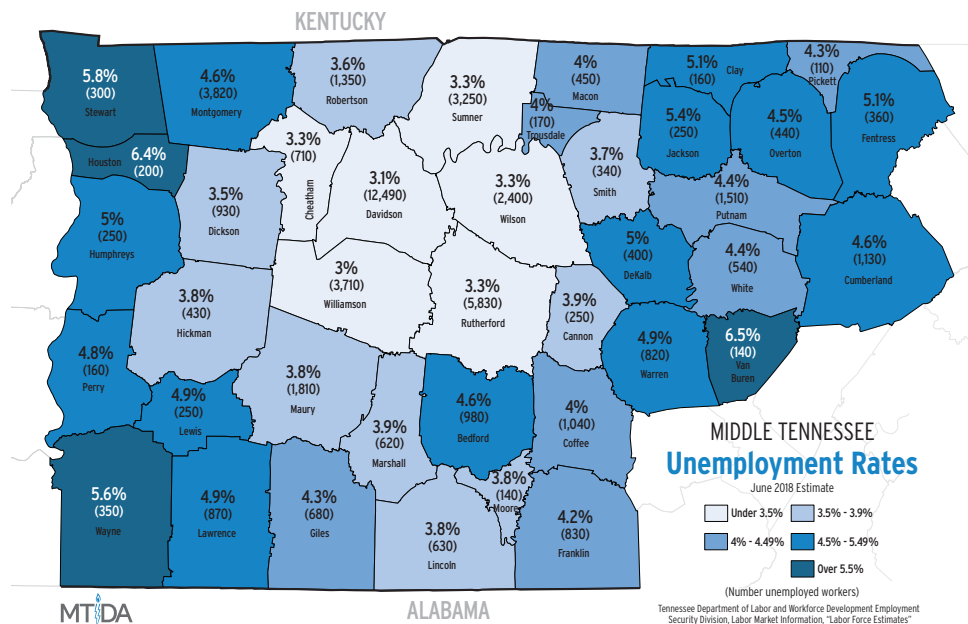
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 3.5 percent, which was unchanged from May. In a year-to-year comparison, the June rate is 0.1 percent lower than it was in 2017.

Throughout the last 14 months, Tennessee has continued to experience historically low unemployment. Since May 2017, the statewide unemployment rate was at or below 3.8 percent. April 2017 was the last time Tennessee's rate was at 4.0 percent.

"To have an entire year with historically low unemployment is a remarkable milestone," Haslam said. "We have made tremendous progress over the last eight years by investing in Tennesseans through workforce development initiatives, creating pathways to higher education and fostering an economic environment where businesses can thrive and grow, and I know Tennessee will lead in job creation."

Tennessee also experienced substantial job growth between May and June. Employers added an estimated 13,000 nonfarm jobs during the time period. The professional-business services, information, and leisure-hospitality industries experienced the highest job gains in June.

"To see that many new jobs come online in June is great for all of Tennessee," said Phillips. "It is an indication that our workforce is prepared to meet the needs of today's employers, and we will continue to encourage that job growth across the state."



Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June experienced a slight increase to 4.0 percent, up 0.2 of a percentage point from May's revised unemployment rate of 3.8 percent. Even with the small uptick, June's national rate was 0.3 of a percentage point lower than it was the previous year.

The statewide unemployment rate is seasonally adjusted to eliminate the influences of weather, holidays, the opening and closing of schools and other recurring seasonal events from an economic time series.

Tennesseans who are searching for employment opportunities can access the latest job openings, update their resumes and sharpen their job interview skills by visiting the state's workforce website.

Source: TN ECD

AllianceBernstein to Bring 1,050-Job Headquarters to Nashville

NASHVILLE (May 2018) AllianceBernstein, a New York-based global investment management firm, is bringing 1,050 jobs to Nashville and Music City is welcoming one of Wall Street's oldest wealth management firms.

AllianceBernstein LP, a money manager that oversees approximately \$550 billion in assets and employs nearly 3,500 employees, announced it would invest more than \$70 million in Nashville and marks a renewal in the financial sector for the city, once known as a Wall Street hub in the South. It also demonstrates a shift from Wall Street as New York firms look for more affordable markets.

Seth Bernstein, president and CEO of AllianceBernstein, said Nashville was chosen among 30 cities. Its cost of living, affordability and quality of life made it stand out among competitors. The new office AllianceBernstein headquarters, expected to be completed by 2020, will include finance, IT, operations, legal, compliance, internal audit human resources, sales and marketing.

AB's new headquarters ranks among the largest and most significant TNECD projects in Gov. Haslam's tenure. AB relocation underscores Nashville's rising profile as a hub for U.S. and international businesses

Source: Tennessean and TN ECD



Supporting Existing Employers



SPRINGFIELD (May 2018) Robertson County Economic Development Board held their annual SEE (Supporting Existing Employers) Breakfast at the Springfield-Robertson County Airport. County and city industrial board members, city mayors, state legislators and state economic development partners were invited to share in this annual gathering of #RobCoindustries and large employers

Kendrick Curtis of MTIDA presented a great program regarding the recently published regional wage and benefit survey and how employers can participate in the next survey planned for 2019.

Also honored Dorman Products as their 2018 Industry of the Year. Dorman has been a great community partner in Orinda for over 10 years, employing more 400. Last month they broke ground on a brand new \$55 million, 800,000-square-foot facility in the TN-KY Industrial Park which will add another 215 new jobs.

Margot Fosnes, Chief Economic Development Officer, Robertson County Economic Development Board gave special thanks to Kristin Buttke and Wingnuts Aviation, LLC for the help with the venue; UT Extension-Robertson County for the sound system, Robertson County Chamber of Commerce for the podium and projector and help with set up and clean up, and Pam Black of Pamela's Parties for the delicious breakfast.

Source: Robertson County EDB

Ceramics Supplier to Create 26 New Jobs

MOUNT PLEASANT (May 2018) Smalticeram USA, Inc. officials announced that the company will locate new operations in Mount Pleasant. The ceramic and tile ink, glaze and pigment producer and distributor will invest \$4 million and create 26 new jobs in Maury County.

Smalticeram will locate its new operations in a 50,000-square-foot facility in Mount Pleasant's Cherry Glen Industrial Park, a Select Tennessee Certified Site. With this new location, the company will be better equipped to serve its North American customers.

The Tennessee Valley Authority along with partners at the city of Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Power Systems and the Maury County Alliance supported the recruitment of Smalticeram's new operation. Headquartered in Italy, Smalticeram has operations across the globe.

Source: TN ECD



LG Electronics Nears October Opening at Clarksville Plant

CLARKSVILLE (May 2018) LG Electronics officials celebrated the completion of the steel construction phase of its new \$250 million facility in Clarksville. TNECD Commissioner Bob Rolfe joined Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan and Montgomery County Mayor Jim Durrett for the ceremony. The new appliance factory, which will employ 600, is on pace to open in October 2018.

Source: TN ECD

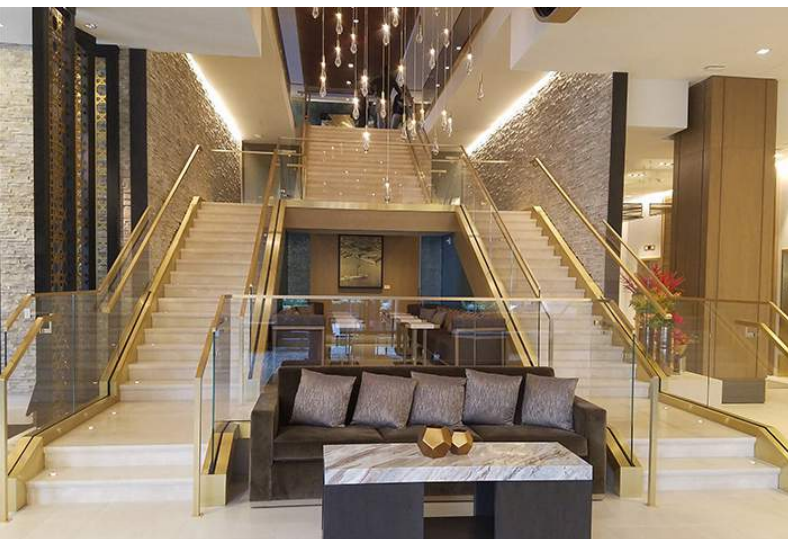
Black Rifle Coffee Company Establishes Operations in Manchester, Creating 52 Jobs

MANCHESTER (May 2018) Black Rifle Coffee Company (BRCC) officials announced that the company will locate its new operations in Manchester. The coffee roaster and distributor will invest \$6 million and create 52 new jobs over the next five years in Coffee County.

BRCC is a veteran-owned and operated coffee company that specializes in roasting and distributing premium, small-batch, roast-to-order coffee to its customers around the globe. All BRCC blends are available in whole bean and ground varieties. The company also has many roasts for purchase in single-serve coffee rounds.

With this new location, BRCC will be better equipped to increase production capacity to keep up with growing demand. The company plans on producing roughly seven million pounds of coffee at the new facility.

Source: TN ECD



Tate Ornamental to Add 50 Jobs

WHITE HOUSE (June 2018) Tate Ornamental, Inc. officials announced it will expand its White House operations. The metal, millwork and stonework manufacturer will create 50 new jobs and invest \$6 million in Robertson County.

“Here at Tate Ornamental, we have been fortunate to have many opportunities to expand our business to other cities and states across the country, but the fact of the matter is, there’s no place we’d rather be than White House, Tennessee,” Ronald J. Tate, president of Tate Ornamental, Inc., said. “Our skilled workers are the backbone of this company, and more than that, they are the backbone of this community. Tate Ornamental – and all of Tennessee – depends on our workers because they are the future leaders and future teachers of the next generation.”

Tate Ornamental is a family owned and operated company that has been in business since 1988. The company manufactures ornamental metal, architectural millwork and stonework for many industries including hospitality, corporate offices, shopping centers, museums, government buildings and more. With this expansion, Tate Ornamental will be expanding its operation into a new 80,000-square-foot facility in White House. Construction of the new facility is set to begin in summer 2018 and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2019.

Source: Tennessean

SelectUSA Investment Summit

WASHINGTON, DC (June 2018) Middle Tennessee was on display for international companies looking to establish or expand operations in the United States at this year's SelectUSA Investment Summit held in Washington, DC, June 20-22. The SelectUSA Investment Summit is the highest-profile event dedicated to promoting foreign direct investment in the United States. The Summit brought together international companies, domestic economic development organizations and a range of other stakeholders to explore job-creating investment opportunities throughout the United States.

Representatives from TNECD, TVA, Upper Cumberland Development District, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Central Economic Authority, Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance and MTIDA met with international companies and a range of other stakeholders seeking to explore job-creating investment opportunities throughout the U.S.

Source: UCDD & MTIDA



Austin Consulting, TNECD Assess Sites in Marshall and Cheatham Counties

MARSHALL & CHEATHAM COUNTIES (July 2018) TNECD and Austin Consulting visited Marshall and Cheatham Counties for Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program (PEP) site visits. The group visited potential industrial sites in each county and will provide reports to each outlining the best opportunities for site development.

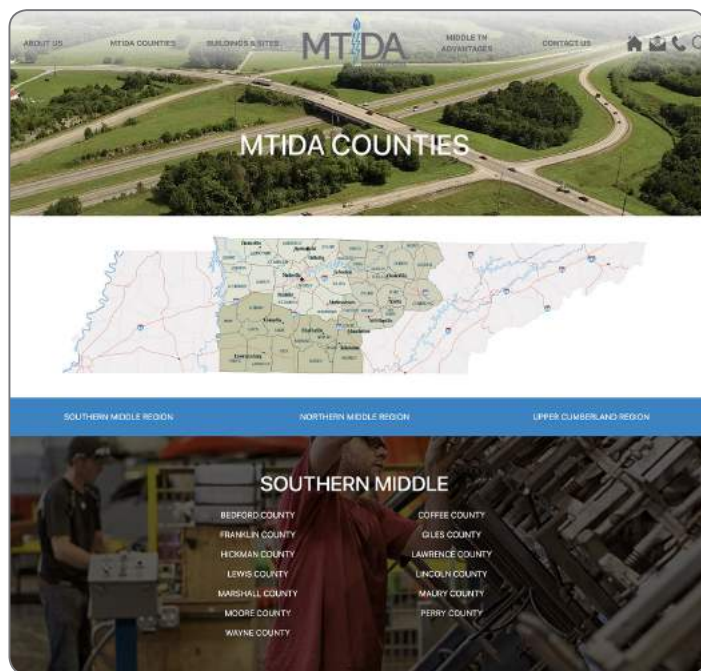
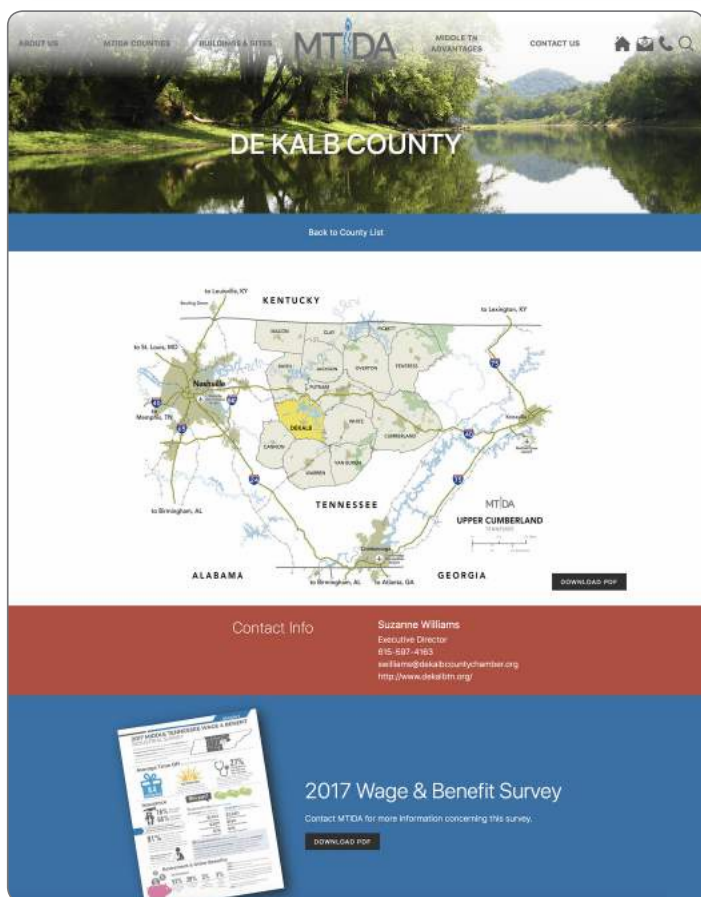
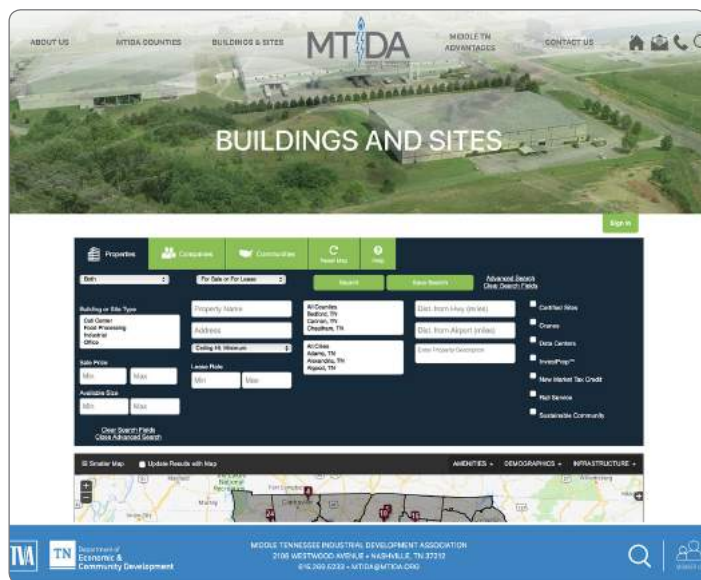
Source: TN ECD



New MTIDA Website!

NASHVILLE (July 2018) At the MTIDA annual meeting we unveiled our new website and it is now active! This website contains more community-based information with links to each community, including downloads for the Wage & Benefits Survey, data profile sheets, regional and county maps, as well as links to the TVASites database of available buildings and sites in middle Tennessee. A special thanks to Younger & Associates for helping with the design and implementation.

Please check it out at www.mtida.org!



Three Middle Tennessee Electric Cooperatives Announce Rural Broadband Initiative

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (August 2018) Pushes for rural areas to have access to broadband internet became a reality when the Legislature passed and Governor Bill Haslam signed the Broadband Accessibility Act. Tri-County Electric Membership was the first mid-state electric cooperative to announce their intention to provide fiber broadband to Trousdale County and a portion of Sumner County. "We think it's going to be a difference maker for the quality of life of the people in this community," said Paul Thompson, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Tri-County. "We know, from an economic development standpoint and educational levels, that it's key to have access to broadband." In January, Tri-County received an Economic and Community Development Grant. The grant announcement was made by Governor Bill Haslam and ECD Commissioner Bob Rolfe. "In communities across Tennessee, broadband is an essential service that will increase economic investment and growth to help businesses, families and individuals thrive," Haslam said. "With the assistance of these grants, underserved communities will now have access to broadband that will benefit not only the communities themselves, but the state as a whole. These grants are a step in the right direction for our state and will help Tennessee reach its full potential."

Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp. and Meriwether-Lewis Electric EMC have announced their plans to build a fiber network to serve their respective areas as well. "We're proud to be the first electric cooperative to pursue a partnership of this kind in Tennessee and answer the calls we have long heard from our members. They want and need access to broadband service," said Chris Jones, president and CEO of Middle Tennessee Electric. "United Communications is the ideal partner for us. They have already built an impressive fiber backbone throughout many areas we serve which will allow us to work together to more rapidly and cost effectively expand internet services."

Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative President and CEO Keith Carnahan announced that MLEC was furthering their original initiative and launching a new era of service. Meriwether Lewis Connect, LLC, a non-profit, wholly owned subsidiary of MLEC, will deliver broadband internet across the five, rural counties it serves. Broadband is coming to the country-sides. "Our areas need broadband for education, healthcare, and community development. Studies show it is a vital need to attract and retain families and businesses," said Carnahan. "Bringing high-speed internet to all our members is one of the largest investments we've

made since our inception 79 years ago. It is a huge step in a completely different arena, but helping rural communities build essential services is just another facet of what cooperatives are designed to do." All three cooperatives will deploy the service in phases with a commitment to serve every member of their service territory.

Source: Hartsville Vidette.com, The Tennessean, MLConnect.com





**Governor Haslam,
Commissioner Rolfe
Announce Faurecia Interior
Systems to Locate New
Operations in Spring Hill**

Automotive
components
manufacturer
to create
143
new jobs

SPRING HILL (August 2018) Faurecia Interior Systems officials announced that the company will locate new operations in Spring Hill.

The automotive components manufacturer plans to create 143 new jobs and invest more than \$30 million in Maury County.

Founded in 1997, Faurecia is a major leader in the global automotive industry. With 300 sites including 30 R&D centers in 35 countries around the world, Faurecia is now a global leader in its three areas of business: automotive seating, interior systems and emissions control technologies. Faurecia is the world's top supplier of seat frames and mechanisms, emissions control technologies and vehicle interiors.

"We are excited to expand our presence in North America to the Spring Hill community of Tennessee," said Donald Hampton, Jr., president of Faurecia Interior Systems in North America. "Exceptional partnerships with community leadership, and the highly motivated and skilled workforce in this state, made this opportunity possible. I know that together we will continue to deliver the best in high-quality products to our customers."

With this location, Faurecia plans to manufacture door panel assemblies. The company plans on building a new 145,000 square foot facility located at 3555 Cleburne Road.

Source: TN ECD

Tech Giant Dell in the Midst of a Hiring Spree



NASHVILLE (July 2018) Dell technology company is adding 225 new employees to its Nashville campus this year as more companies are upgrading technology equipment. The company has hired 75 people since January and plans to add more than 150 new inside sales professionals in 2018. The company has 1,600 Nashville employees.

Dell, located at 1 Dell Parkway near the Nashville International Airport, sells desktops, laptops, workstations and security services. The company shutdown its customer support unit in Nashville in 2015, laying off nearly 100 workers.

The company has emphasized its workplace flexibility and seeks to offer remote work to 50 percent of its staff by 2020.

Source: Tennessean

Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association 2018-2019 Executive Committee

President

Mark Kimbell | *General Manager*
Gallatin Department of Electricity

Vice President

Keith Carnahan | *CEO*
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Taylor | *Superintendent*
CDE Lightband

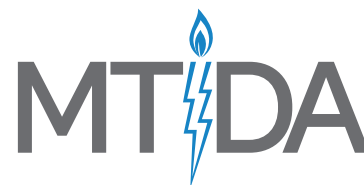
Members

Chris Jones | *President*
Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation

Rodney Boyd | *General Manager & CEO*
McMinnville Electric System

Chris Davis | *General Manager*
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Steven Moore | *Manager, Lending & Incentives*
Tennessee Valley Authority



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