



USGBC Middle Tennessee Chapter 2010 Board of Directors Election Application

**Middle
Tennessee**

Nominees: Please answer the following questions in the space provided and electronically submit by COB October 22, 2009. The Nomination Committee reserves the right to delete narrative exceeding the space provided. Application material will be made available to the Nominating Committee for evaluation and to the chapter membership if selected for the slate.
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Submitted By:

Name: Alan Thompson

Title: Vice President, Director of Sustainable Design (RLA, APA, LEED AP)

Organization: Ragan Smith Associates, Inc.

Address: 315 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206

Membership Category: Professional Firms

Phone Number: 244-8591 Email: athompson@ragansmith.com

A. In general, why do you wish to be a member of the Chapter Board?

Since I became involved in sustainable design techniques and applications, I have found that I could learn numerous innovative approaches that address traditional problems. I now ask the question "Why have we used the traditional design methods for the past 30 plus years?". Every project is different, every approach is unique, and there is a smart, sustainable, cost effective solution. You just have to think outside the box. I have made an effort to educate myself and my clients on the value of sustainable design and the LEED Certification programs. I feel that my professional experience, with both the private and public sector, will provided a knowledge that can assist the board with promoting sustainable design for the future of the building industry.

B. Please provide a summary of your professional qualifications, knowledge and experience of most relevance to the Chapter. Also indicate the degree to which you have senior management and executive level experience.

I am a Vice President at Ragan Smith Associates, Inc. and the Director of Sustainable Design. I graduated the University of Georgia in landscape Architecture and have been a licensed LA since 1997. I have 16 years of experience in land planning consulting with specialized knowledge in landscape architecture and sustainable design. I have worked with the private sector in site planning, rezoning, and construction development. I have worked with the public sector providing land planning, landscape ordinance development, and city guidelines development. I have served on the ASLA Executive Committee as Member at Large Rep. and Treasurer for 6 years.

- C. The Chapter is committed to strengthening its membership diversity. What resources could you bring to bear (e.g., demonstrated expertise, leadership positions, and willingness) to help further Chapter participation from high priority sectors including: real estate, energy/utility, finance/insurance, residential, corporate, and product manufacturing? You can also address other sectors you think require greater involvement in the Chapter.

I am a member of multiple organizations including ASLA, TAPA, NAIOP, ULI, as well as USGBC. These networking opportunities will help sell the value of the USGBC and sustainable design. I have recently (spring 2009) joined the Programing Committee for USGBC. I assisted, with speaker recruitment for this years ASLA/USGBC state conference. I was a speaker at the Clear Water Institute Community Forum, TAPA State Conference and ASLA/USGBC State Conference. In my industry, I have worked with/on government officials, utility providers, product suppliers, residential design, industrial design, office design, retail design and park design.

- D. One of the important functions of Board members is fundraising and other activities to support priority needs of the Chapter. This may take many forms, including: direct sponsorships; helping secure funding or otherwise opening doors from corporate, governmental, and charitable sources; seeking third-party sponsors; recruiting new members; in-kind support, etc. Please explain your ability and willingness to participate in resource development.

As treasurer of Tennessee ASLA, I have become familiar with the needs of financial support for a non-profit organization. I have set on several committees, as mentioned above, recruiting speakers for particular events. I am a people person and would be willing to reach out to the necessary people/organizations to assist with the fund raising effort.

- E. Describe what expertise, experience and resources you would bring to any of the following priority activities: Fundraising, Membership Growth, Local Advocacy, Board Leadership

My 6 years of experience with the Tennessee ASLA, as Member at Large and Treasurer has equipped me with innovative fund raising skills. I feel my personality, speaker skills, networking skills, and enthusiasm for sustainable design can assist with both membership growth and local advocacy. I have been in management with Ragan Smith for approximately 10 years and have been a Vice President since 2007. These positions have provided me with leadership skills.

- F. Describe your experience from other organizations with successful chapter programs.

I have 6 years experience with Tennessee ASLA, as Member at Large and Treasurer for the State Executive Committee. This has been a valuable learning process understanding how a non-profit organization works and the multiple task that have to be addressed.

G. Leadership positions (volunteer or professional) with nonprofit governance.

-Tennessee ASLA, as Member at Large and Treasurer for State Executive Committee
-USGBC Programing Committee
-ULI Sustainable Committee
-ASLA/USGBC State Conference Speaker Programing Sub-Committee
-Deacon over Community Ministry for Bellevue Church of Christ

H. Other areas you believe are critical for the Chapter.

I believe educating the private development industry and jurisdictional staff leaders on the value of sustainable design and the LEED Certification program is essential to the long term success of the USGBC Middle Tennessee Chapter. Studies conducted by the Green Ribbon Committee show that Metro Government facilities make up only 5% of Nashville's buildings. The remaining 95% are made up of the private sector. I feel our chapter can have a substantial impact in this area.

I. Please identify any affiliations, memberships, and accreditations which may be pertinent for Chapter leadership.

-Licensed Landscape Architect -9 year member of the TN Chpt. of American Planning Association
-National Association of Industrial and Offices Properties (NAIOP) - Urban Land Institute -ASLA

J. Are you a chapter member in good standing and employed in the membership category depicted above?

Yes

K. Are you able to attend at least 7 of 10 regularly-schedule Board meetings each year?

Yes

L. The Board's conflict of interest policy is summarized in the Fact Sheet. As the full statement indicates, conflicts are not inherently improper but Directors must be conscious of such conflicts and act with candor and care in dealing with such situations. Will you abide by the Chapter's conflict policy and can you do so without significantly affecting your Board responsibilities?

Yes



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If elected to the USGBC Middle Tennessee Board of Directors, I will commit to the following basic responsibilities of a Director as requested:

- help determine the organization's mission and purposes;
- hire staff (if applicable);
- ensure effective organizational planning;
- ensure adequate resources;
- manage resources effectively;
- determine, monitor, and strengthen the organization's programs and services;
- enhance the organization's public standing;
- ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability; and
- recruit and orient new board members and assess board performance

If elected to the Board, I will also commit to the following specific responsibilities reflected in the election materials:

1. Remain a Chapter member in good standing;
2. Contribute knowledge and experience to help assure success of priority programs and needs of the Chapter;
3. Help influence key players and sectors in the industry including high priority sectors of real estate, corporate, energy/utility, finance, residential and product manufacturers;
4. Help recruit new members for the Chapter;
5. Serve on committees as needed including leadership positions;
6. Help secure funding for the Chapter's programs through sponsorships, corporate and charitable sources, and other significant sources of funding;
7. Abide by the USGBC's conflict of interest policy;
8. Attend at least 7 of 10 Board meetings each year.



Date/Time Field