



September  
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# InTrust

## RISK MANAGEMENT TRUSTEES

**Tony Tucker**, Chairman  
*Huntingdon SSD*

**Robert Stidham**, V-Chairman  
*Hawkins County*

**Billy Joe Evans**  
*Fayetteville*

**Mark Farley**  
*White County*

**Larry Griffin**  
*Crockett County*

**Patricia Gruenewald**,  
*Haywood County*

**David Jones**,  
*Hancock County*

**Dawn Robinson**  
*Cleveland*

**Joe Treece**  
*Wayne County*

## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUSTEES

**Roger Greene**, Chairman  
*Hamblen County*

**David Jones**, V-Chairman.  
*Hancock County*

**Tammy Baird**  
*Hawkins County*

**Ron Britt**  
*Wilson County*

**Don Elledge**  
*Clinton*

**Patricia Gruenewald**  
*Haywood County*

**Camille Lashlee**  
*Houston County*

**Jasper Taylor**  
*Crockett County*

**Dan Tollett**  
Trust Administrator

## **Newsletter for Risk Management & Unemployment Compensation Trust Members**

### **Elledge to Become Judge**

UCT Trustee Don Elledge, Chairman of the Clinton City Board of Education, has been appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to be Circuit Judge for the Seventh Judicial District of Tennessee which includes Anderson County. Don has served on the UCT Board of Trustees since 1994. "We could not have had a better trustee than Don Elledge", said Trust Administrator Dan Tollett. "He has been thoughtful, wise, personable and articulate. His judgment and leadership have been invaluable to the UCT. He is highly respected by each of the other trustees. We will miss him dearly, but he will be a marvelous judge." Elledge has been on the Clinton City Board of Education since 1992. His appointment as judge became effective on September 6, 2005.

### **UCT to Sponsor Appreciation Dinner**

The UCT will sponsor a dinner cruise on the General Jackson for superintendents, school board members and their guests on Sunday, November 13. The UCT staff arranged to have the dinner cruise delayed so that it would not conflict with any scheduled TSBA activity. The dinner cruise is set to begin immediately after the opening general session of the TSBA Convention. The dock from which the cruise will embark is in walking distance of the Opryland Hotel. The UCT will distribute rebate checks at the dinner to boards which have qualified for them. The dinner cruise will replace the annual UCT breakfast. Reservation forms have been sent to superintendents.

### **New UCT Trustees**

Tammy Baird of Hawkins County and Jasper Taylor of Crockett County have been named to fulfill unexpired terms on the Unemployment Compensation Trust Board of Trustees. Jasper Taylor is chairman of the Crockett County Board of Education and also serves as Crockett County Attorney. Tammy Baird, a member of the Hawkins County Board of Education, is a nurse practitioner. She will complete the unexpired term of Don Elledge who has been named circuit judge by Governor Phil Bredesen. Trust Chairman Roger Greene said, "Each of these school board members comes to our trust with excellent recommendations. Each member of our Board of Trustees is a strong and effective leader in their local community. Tammy and Jasper have the experience and knowledge required to fulfill the important responsibilities of trustees in what we believe to be the most successful trust of its kind in the country".

### **UCT Trustees Declare Rebate**

The trustees of the UCT have declared that they will rebate more than \$400,000 to the members of the trust. Some members will receive their full premiums and some will receive no rebate at all. The rebates will be provided to members of the trust based upon their record of unemployment claims. "Our goal is for every member to follow the best employment practices resulting in full rebates of premiums" said David Jones of Hancock County, Vice Chairman of the UCT.

“Our goal is for every trust member to follow the best employment practices so that we can rebate their full premium”

David Jones  
Hancock County  
UCT Vice Chairman

“The TSB-RMT is simply the best risk management choice for Tennessee Schools”

Joe Treece  
Chairman  
Wayne County  
Board of Education

“We could not have had a better trustee than Don Elledge”

Dan Tollett  
Trust Administrator

### **Attorney General Issues Ruling Requested by TSBA**

TSBA leaders did not agree with the opinion of RMT trust attorney Keith Dennen that Tennessee law precluded a private non-profit corporation such as TSBA from membership in the Risk Management Trust because it is not a governmental entity. Their attorney had told them that: “TSBA is clearly a political subdivision of the State of Tennessee and as such, is eligible not only to participate in but also form and operate an intergovernmental insurance pool.” So, they asked the Attorney General for an official opinion.

On Tuesday, August 29, the AG issued an opinion which was in agreement with that of the Trust attorney. The last paragraph of the AG opinion included the following language: “...**TSBA is not a governmental entity under Tenn. Code Ann. 29-20-401 and can not create a reserve or special fund, or enter into a pooling agreement, as authorized under this section.**”

### **RMT to Provide Free Property Appraisal**

RMT trustees have decided that the trust will provide a free appraisal of property to each member during one of the next three years as a benefit from membership in the trust. This appraisal process will assist schools in meeting the new GASB 34 requirements.

### **TSBA Rejects UCT Sponsorship of Calendar**

UCT Trust Chairman Roger Greene of Hamblen County said that he was notified by TSBA that they would seek another sponsor for the calendar which the UCT has sponsored since the calendar was first published. Greene said that the UCT had budgeted funds for sponsorship activities related to TSBA. Trustees asked TSBA to provide a list of activities or events which TSBA wanted the UCT to fund. TSBA President John Conley told trustees that the breakfast and the calendar were of no benefit to TSBA and that TSBA would not propose sponsorship activities for the UCT.

### **Trustees Give High Priority to Cooperation**

Both the Unemployment Compensation Trustees and the Risk Management Trustees have given high priority to continuation of their long standing cooperation with TSBA. The minutes of the meetings of the trusts document these efforts. They are on-line for the membership to read.

Trustees were happy when the leadership of TSBA signed a sponsorship agreement with the Risk Management Trust. The agreement specified that TSBA would promote, cooperate with and support the Trust in exchange for a \$325,000 sponsorship fee. Naturally, trustees expected the agreement pledging cooperation and support to end any conflict. The trustees have continued to pay the \$325,000 annual sponsorship fee. Visit the respective websites of the trusts to find out if the agreement to cooperate, promote and support has produced the promised results. See the Risk Management Trust website at [trmt.net](http://trmt.net) and the Unemployment Compensation Trust website at [trmt.net/uct](http://trmt.net/uct).