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Nashville Zoo Announces New Officers and Board Members

Nashville Zoo is pleased to announce five new members and two new officers to the board of directors. The Zoo also expresses deep appreciation to the service provided by all those ending their terms on the board.

Renée Chevalier took over the role as board chairman, replacing **Jennifer Frist**. Ms. Chevalier is a vice president of Private Client Financial Services for First Tennessee and has an MBA from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Her past community involvement includes volunteering with the Nashville Symphony, American Heart Association and United Way.

Jim Dickson is the board's new treasurer. Mr. Dickson is president of insurance operations for Direct General and is active in the Nashville community, serving as president of the Young Entrepreneurs Organization and as a deacon at Woodmont Christian Church.

Continuing as officers for Nashville Zoo's board of directors are **Elizabeth Washko** as secretary and **Rick Schwartz** as Nashville Zoo president.

New members to the Zoo's board include the following: **Brad Blevins** is president of Blevins Inc., a supplier of manufactured housing. Mr. Blevins holds an MBA from Northwestern. He is the state chairman of Tennessee's Young President's Organization and also serves on the McNeilly Center Board.

Joe Freedman is chairman and founder of the American Search Companies, a conglomerate of specialty executive search firms. Mr. Freedman is also president and founder of two event service businesses: Peachtree Tents & Events and Music City Tents & Events. Mr. Freedman holds a juris doctor degree and a B.S. in finance.

Howard Gentry is the CEO of Nashville Area Chamber Public Benefit Foundation, which coordinates a variety of Chamber of Commerce initiatives, including improving public education, developing alternative approaches to urban revitalization, promoting cultural and artistic endeavors, preserving historic structures and many others. Mr. Gentry served as vice mayor and president of the Metro Council from 2002 - 2007. He has worked in a wide variety of positions throughout the Nashville business, education, media and non-profit communities, including CEO of Backfield in Motion, director of athletics, director of development and executive director of the TSU Foundation at Tennessee State

University, longtime radio voice of the TSU Tigers and host of the Howard Gentry, Jr. Sports Talk Show on WNSR-AM.

Wade McGregor is a partner in tax practice for Ernst & Young, a professional service organization. Mr. McGregor is also the founding board chairman of Bethany Christian Services in Nashville, sits on the advisory board for Brentwood Academy and is an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a master's degree in accounting with a tax emphasis.

Joining Nashville Zoo's board of directors as a Young Leaders Council representative is **Chris Raybeck**, a member of the law firm Bone McAllester Norton, PLLC. Mr. Raybeck is involved with several community associations including Habitat for Humanity, Senior Citizens, Inc. and the West End Youth League. He earned his juris doctor from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Continuing their service on the Zoo's board of directors are **George Armistead, Kelvin Ault, Kelley Beaman, Darek Bell, Kelly Crockett, Bob Crosby, Steve Curnutte, Collie Daily, Jim Downing, Missy Eason, Barbara Fritch, Bob Gordon, Gigi Grimstad, Jim Hunt, Edie Johnson, Jamie Jones, Arthur Laffer, Tom Loventhal, Frank McGrew, Larry Papel, Phil Ponder, Sylvia Roberts, Jeanette Rudy, Sunny Spyridon, Abby Trotter, and Barry Watkins**. Honorary board members include: **Mary Clement, Dan Gaudette, Rodes Hart, Robin Patton, Dick Ragsdale, Charles Sonnenberg** and **Jimmy Webb**. Ex-Officio member is **Laurie Hooper**.

Nashville Zoo sincerely thanks those members ending their terms on the board. They include **Jennifer Frist** (immediate past president), **Boyce Adams, Bonnie Perdue, Shannone Raybon** and **Bennett Westbrook**.

The board of directors oversees Nashville Zoo's business affairs and master plan, including the development of the Zoo. For 2008, development includes improvements to the parking lot and entrance area. Nashville Zoo is also working on a habitat for Caribbean flamingos.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of the Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, please call 833-1534, or visit our website at www.nashvillezoo.org.

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