



# Rotary

Club of Jackson,  
Mississippi



## Rotagram

November 4, 2024

The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomed Marshall Ramsey, editor-at-large, Mississippi Today; radio and television host, Mississippi Public Broadcasting; and Mississippi author.



**L to R:** Past President LeRoy Walker - Owner LTM Enterprise; Past President Tom Johnson - Raytheon, Retired; Marshall Ramsey - Editor-At-Large, Mississippi Today; Radio and television host, Mississippi Public Broadcasting; Mississippi Author; and President Phillip Carpenter – Owner, Carpenter Properties

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**President Phillip Carpenter welcomed Rotarians and guests.**

**He also led the Club in the Four Way Test.**

**Keith Ferguson** – President of LogoStoreUSA, delivered the Invocation.

**Ted Jackson** led club members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Nominating Committee has announced the slate of officers and Directors with the recommendation that the Board of Directors be decreased from 12 to 8, which is more proportionate to the size of the club's membership. Nominating Committee Chair and Rotary Past President Tom Johnson announced the following slate:

#### **Board of Directors Nominees:**

- Deonte Oscar
- Gerard Gibert
- Michael Van Velkinburgh
- Tom Johnson (it is customary for a past president to serve on the Board)

#### **Officer Nominees:**

- Richard Wilbourn – President-Elect
- Amanda Fontaine – President-Elect Nominee
- Lee Bush – President Elect Nominee (next in line of succession)

According to the Rotary Club of Jackson bylaws, nominations may be taken from the floor but must be submitted in writing, including 15 signatures of supporting members.

A vote will take place in December for nominees.

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The Rotary Club of Jackson will not meet on November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day. Thank you to our Rotarians who served in the United States Armed Forces.

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### **BIRTHDAYS:**

Assma Ali	November 5
Jack Blackburn	November 6
Deborah Wright	November 6

## ROTARY JOIN DATES:

Michael Boerner (11 years)  
John Damon (7 years)  
Hap Henley (2 years)

November 5  
November 7  
November 8

**Club statements have been emailed. Please make these a priority.**

President-Elect Richard Wilbourn presented certificates and Rotary pins to members recognized for their years of **Perfect Attendance**.

Seth Dickinson	1 year
Lee Bush	1 year
Sandra Shelson	10 years
Amanda Fontaine	10 years
Harvey Little	15 years
Ted Jackson	22 years
Phillip Carpenter	24 years
Dent Anglin	25 years
Ray Lenow	28 years
Neddie Winters	28 years





Congratulations to **Seth and Sarah Dickinson**, who were married on Saturday, November 2.



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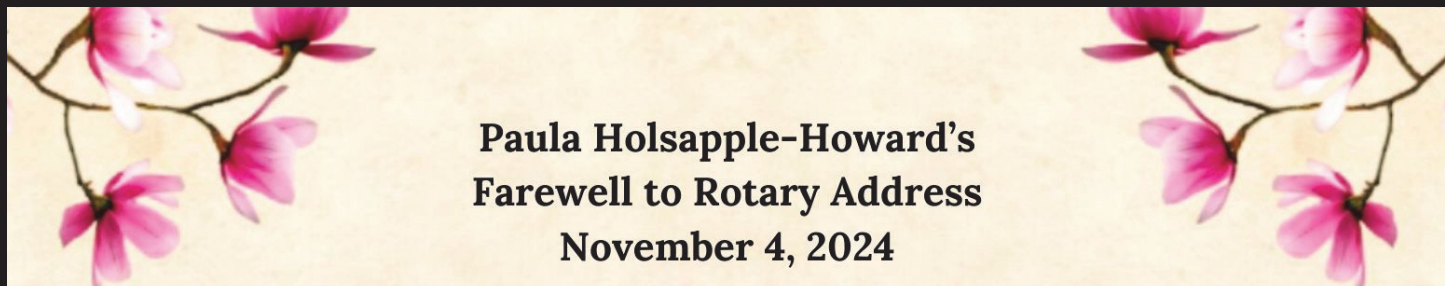
**Past President Leroy Walker Recognition of Executive Director Paula Holsapple-Howard.** He expressed gratitude for her services, positivity, work ethic, and optimism in all she did.

LeRoy presented Paula with a large gift basket and a beautiful bouquet on behalf of the entire club.

### **Paula Holsapple-Howard**







**Paula Holsapple-Howard's  
Farewell to Rotary Address  
November 4, 2024**

Mother Theresa said, "Love has to be put into action, and that action is service." Many years ago, I learned that I am at my very best when I am serving others. I also understand that God always prepares the way for me. During the Covid pandemic of 2020, I was blessed with the opportunity to interview with members of the Board for the Executive Director position of the Rotary Club of Jackson. God gave me Rotary to meaningfully practice the gift of serving, to serve alongside others, and to make wonderful friends. I have loved every moment, every opportunity to open my heart, and every push towards growth.

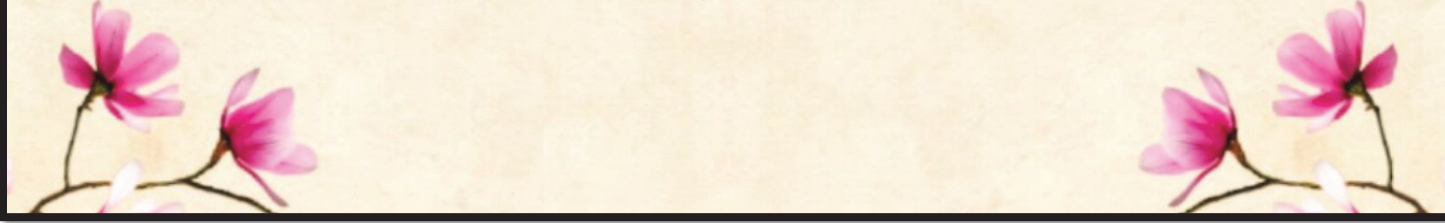
Being a part of the Rotary Club of Jackson has allowed me to serve with some amazing people and to be a part of something that has made a positive impact in our community.

When I was in high school, I remember my dad talking about Rotary and his many friends like Danny Williams, LeRoy Walker, Roger Venable, Bob Berman, and so many others. Sister Dorothea trained me as a candy striper when I was just 13 years old. My mother, Pauline, was a client of Ted Jackson, and she respected him so much. My parents have loved LeAnne Brewer for over 20 years. These are just a few examples of the many relationships they formed through Rotary. Serving as Executive Director for this club has allowed me the opportunity to cultivate relationships as an adult with these very same people and to create friendships with so many others. Talk about a full-circle moment!

I want to say a special thanks to a few people, To LeRoy Walker, Howard Catchings, and Neddie Winters, for your love and guidance, both professionally and personally. Howard, you will always be my most favorite person to run in to at the grocery store. Special thanks to Tom Johnson and Mark Fields for their willingness to share their Rotary knowledge and history and how they have encouraged me over the years. Mark's encouragement is a little softer than Tom's sometimes gruff encouragement. But that's okay, Tom. I am married to a man who retired from the Army, so I totally get it! To Mark Saxon for patiently teaching me about Paul Harris Fellows. To our leadership, including Janet Scott, LeRoy Walker, Mike Pepper, Paul Bowers, Selena Swartzfager, and Phillip Carpenter – thank you for your guidance.

To my fellow Rotarians, thank you for all of your support, the grace you offered when I made mistakes, the positive encouragement, all of the wonderful opportunities, and the many friendships I have been blessed with.

As I mentioned earlier, I have absolutely loved every moment. I will always consider being a part of Rotary as one of my greatest blessings. Thank you!





Rotarians donated **94 coats** to the Boys and Girls of Central Mississippi, and **Service Chair Rob Salley** delivered the coats on Monday afternoon.

Thank you to the Rotarians who gave coats to help children in the local area stay warm this winter.

**JACKSON**  
Mississippi  
ROTARY CLUB

**Rotary**  
Club of Jackson,  
Mississippi

**WINTER**

**Coat**

**Drive**

**New coats**  
sizes for ages  
5 to 18 year  
olds

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**Collection**  
**Dates:**  
**October 28**  
**and**  
**November 4**





Please keep Rotarian Yolanda Singleton in your thoughts and prayers.

Her mother, Mrs. Edna Singleton Rhodes, passed away on Sunday, November 3.

In addition, her uncle Walter Barnes passed away on November 2.

## *Thank You*

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This is a special "THANK YOU, GRAM" expressing my sincere thanks to you for the many thoughtful cards, notes, texts, and prayers you sent me following my fall and injury. I appreciate Paula's kindness in updating you on my condition and healing. Fortunately, I am on the mend, and I hope to receive a good report following my visit to the surgeon this week.

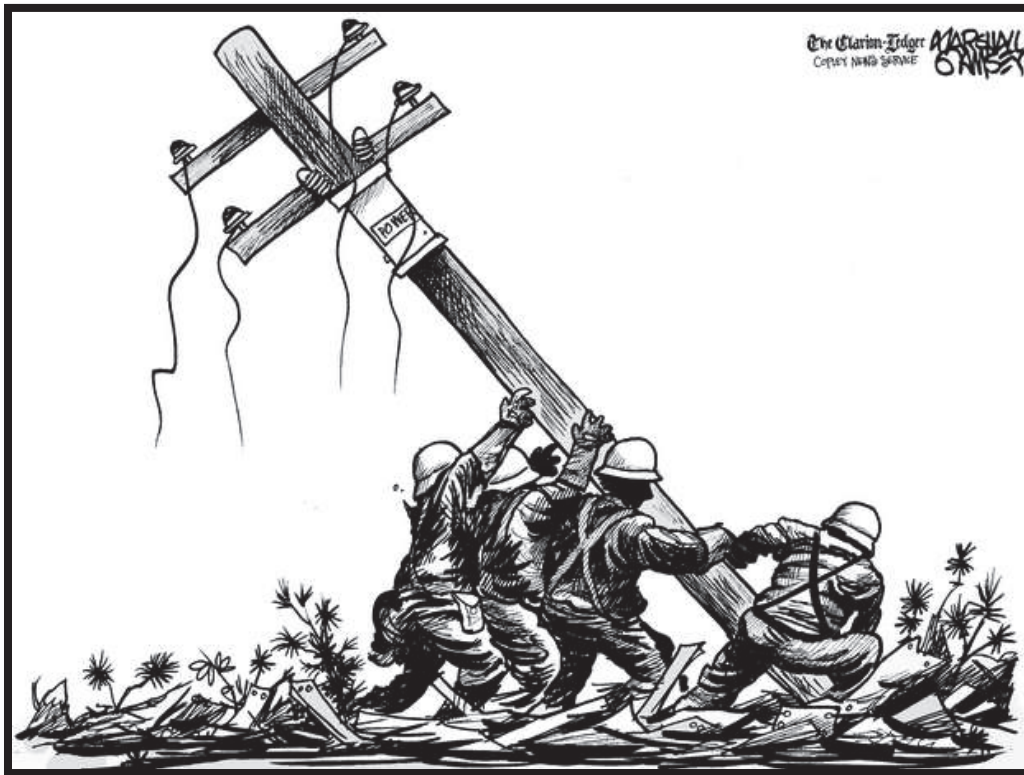
Your prayers are the best medicine and have been instrumental in my recovery. For all of your kindness I say, "Thank you and God bless you, my friends!"

Sister Dorothea





## Past President Tom Johnson Introduced Marshall Ramsey.



Within three years, in his early 20s, Marshall Ramsey went from working as a high school janitor to having his cartoons published in the New York Times.

Today, Marshall is still creating cartoons daily in Mississippi for a statewide audience that sees them online or on social media, rather than the newsprint of old.

Following more than two decades at The Clarion-Ledger, Marshall has spent the last six years working as editor-at-large at Mississippi Today, the Pulitzer Prize-winning,

non-profit, and nonpartisan news website that boasts the largest news operation in the state.

“In a week, I’ll draw about seven to eight cartoons, create a weekly newsletter, do an interview show, and hit the road to events spreading the gospel of Mississippi Today all over the state.

I have been so blessed to work at Mississippi Today. I get to work with an extremely talented staff of journalists at a place dedicated to making Mississippi a better place through impactful journalism,” Marshall said.

In his early Clarion Ledger days, Marshall sat in his office, crouched over a drawing table with a pen. Today, he draws his cartoons on an iPad using Procreate. Although the tools may differ, the ideas, the process, and the outcome are the same.

“Living in Mississippi is a paradise for an editorial cartoonist,” Marshall said.

Marshall had many opportunities to leave Mississippi for other jobs. But he said the state’s people, artistic legacy, and active artist culture are why he stayed to raise his family — Amy and their three sons — here.

“I first thought I might be here two years. But I just fell in love with the people. The people here are so gracious and welcoming,” Marshall said.

Whether he’s creating cartoons that go viral — like his 2018 Barbara Bush obit cartoon where she’s reunited in heaven with her daughter Robin, whom she and President George H. W. Bush lost to leukemia in 1953 — or drawing cartoons of linemen as heroes restoring power in Mississippi after disasters, Marshall is proud to call Mississippi home.

“Mississippi has been incredibly kind to my family and me — it has given us so much. I hope that I’ve been able to give a little back. I know I’m a better person because I’ve lived here.”

He’s a two-time Pulitzer Finalist (2002 and 2006), a 2022 Southeastern Emmy winner, and his work is nationally syndicated by Creators Syndicate. His cartoons have appeared in The New York Times, USA Today, and The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion-Ledger. He’s also the author of several successful books, including three cartoon collections, two short story collections (Fried Chicken and Wine and Chainsaws and Casseroles), and the delightful children’s book Banjo’s Dream.

Marshall’s cartoons, photos, stories, and posts are frequently shared on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. He also hosts the weekly statewide radio program Now You’re Talking with Marshall Ramsey and the television program Conversations on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He has appeared on Fox & Friends, Inside Edition, CBSN, and

CNN New Day.

Marshall's also a cancer survivor. Diagnosed with malignant melanoma in 2001, he has been honored by both the Melanoma Research Foundation and the American Cancer Society for paying his survival forward. He promotes skin cancer awareness and sun safety through cartoons, speeches, screenings, and a 5K race. He even ran the Marine Corps Marathon to raise funds for melanoma research. (He completed the race, raised \$13,000, and developed wicked leg cramps).

Marshall, his wife Amy, their three sons, and their precocious dog Pip live in Mississippi, the best state for politics, storytellers, sweet tea, and raising a family.

## More Photos



Enjoying lunch.



George Gammon and John Wise





Mark Saxon and Steve Corbitt



Bernard Bridges, Judge Crystal Wise Martin, Tamica Jeuit, LeAnne Brewer, and Howard Catchings