



Rotary
Club of Jackson,
Mississippi



President

Phillip Carpenter

March 2025 Newsletter

A new month brings the chance for a fresh start and revitalized energy. Not every month in our lives provides the same levels of happiness and joy. Even if one month is challenging, we can always embrace the arrival of a new month, letting go of sadness and frustration and eagerly anticipating achieving our goals with innovative strategies and fresh plans.

Welcome, April! It's a new month, a fresh chapter, a blank page, and a time for new aspirations. May this month give you courage, strength, confidence, patience, self-love, and inner peace. May each day of April be filled with hope, love, sunshine, and energy.

April marks the arrival of spring and has an invigorating quality that sparks thoughts of possibilities: with longer days, vibrant green leaves on trees, and blooming flowers, it signifies a time of new beginnings and fresh starts.

April also serves as a period for new commitments, as many individuals take this opportunity to renew their dedication to personal growth and positive life changes.

April is recognized as Autism Awareness Month. Additionally, Earth Day and Arbor Day fall within this month, giving us plenty of opportunities to focus on caring for our loved ones and the planet.

May this new month draw you closer to your goals and dreams.

A P R I L

Keep America Beautiful Month
Child Abuse Prevention Month



1

APRIL FOOLS' DAY

2

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

20

EASTER SUNDAY

22

EARTH DAY

25

ARBOR DAY

26

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY





The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say, or do.

————— Is it the truth? —————

Is it fair to all concerned?

—————
Will it build goodwill
and better friendships?

—————
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

A photograph of the Statue of Liberty at dusk or night. The statue is illuminated, and its right arm is raised. The background shows a cityscape with lights and a dark sky.

**KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL
MONTH**

APRIL
IS

Child Abuse
Prevention
Month!





Historically, April Fool's Day has been seen as a time of rebellion against convention and the status quo, symbolizing the breaking free from societal norms and expectations.

It represents a spirit of playfulness and spontaneity, reminding us of the importance of humor and joy in our lives.

Spiritually, April Fools' Day is a call to embrace our authentic selves, challenge rigid structures, and renew our perspective on life.

**WORLD AUTISM
AWARENESS
DAY IS APRIL 2**

**LISTEN,
UNDERSTAND,
SUPPORT**

**Autism affects one in 59
children in the United
States.**





April 20

EASTER

Easter is the day those of the Christian faith celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ after he was crucified, and it's one of the most important holidays in the Christian calendar.



Earth Day

April 22



NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

APRIL
25





Administrative
Professionals
Day

April 26



**Rotary Club of Jackson, Mississippi, Resolution Honoring
William Franklin "Bill" Hankins – presented by Seth Dickinson,
Special Assistant Attorney General.**



Rotary
Club of Jackson,
Mississippi



Resolution Honoring William Franklin "Bill" Hankins

WHEREAS, William Franklin "Bill" Hankins, a distinguished member of our community, passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on December 27th, surrounded by his loving family; and

WHEREAS, Bill Hankins was a devoted husband to Sarah Glynn Hankins, a cherished father to David Hankins, Amanda Hankins Kirk, and the late William Franklin Hankins, Jr., and a beloved grandfather to many, especially Holden Von Seutter, with whom he had a special bond; and

WHEREAS, Bill was born in 1938 in Grenada, Mississippi, to Ruby Evelyn Crawford and William Bilbo Hankins, and his early life and education at Greenwood High School and Mississippi State University laid the foundation for his remarkable career; and

WHEREAS, Bill was a proud member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and an ardent supporter of Mississippi State University, later continuing his education at Southern Methodist University Graduate School to advance his expertise in banking; and

WHEREAS, Bill Hankins made significant contributions to the commercial and industrial real estate industry, serving as President of the Mississippi Commercial Association of Realtors and being honored as their Realtor of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and vision led to the co-founding of the Mississippi Commercial Real Estate Exchange website, which continues to benefit brokers, salespeople, and the public; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Bill held esteemed positions in economic development, banking, and advanced cellular technology, contributing to the progress of Mississippi's financial and technological industries; and

WHEREAS, Bill's legacy extends beyond his professional achievements, as he was known for his deep love of family, his unwavering integrity, and his commitment to the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, his presence, wisdom, and kindness will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his contributions and character will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rotary Club of Jackson, Mississippi, recognizes and honors the life and legacy of William Franklin "Bill" Hankins for his extraordinary service, leadership, and dedication to his family, profession, and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to his family as a token of our most profound respect and condolences.

Adopted this 31st day of March, 2025, by the Rotary Club of Jackson, Mississippi.


2024 - 2025 Club President



President Phillip Carpenter, Mrs. Sarah Glynn Hankins, Seth Dickinson

SHOUT OUT TO TY CLARDY!



Ty is one of our Rotary scholars, a senior at Mississippi State University who will begin medical school in the fall at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Rotarian David Raddin says he has been honored to be a member of the Rotary Club of Jackson and to serve as Ty's mentor, a position one of our club members assumes for each scholar.

Ty has not only excelled academically but has also helped other students who have struggled with collegiate life.

David said, "Ty has lived out Rotary's motto, 'Service above self. The one who serves best profits most.'"

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rotarian Howard Catchings for being honored as one of the Hometown Hero Award recipients at the Annual Black and White Community and Awards Scholarship Gala.

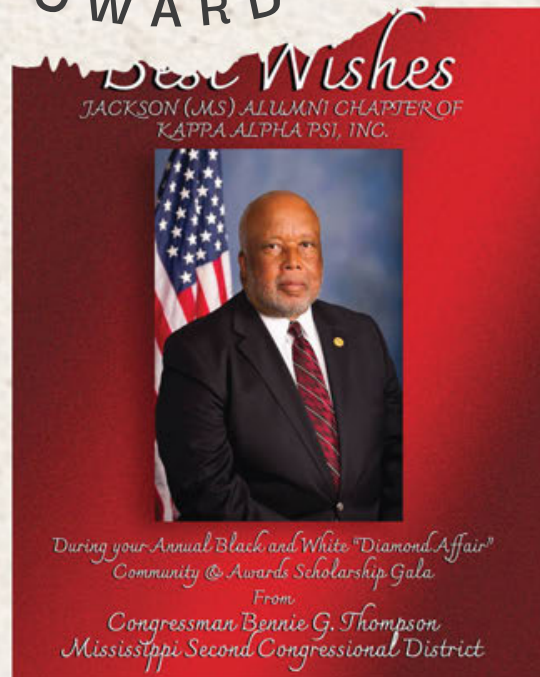
This event, hosted by the Jackson (MS) Alumni Chapter and the Greater Jackson Kappa Foundation, took place on Saturday, March 1st, at the Jackson Convention Complex.



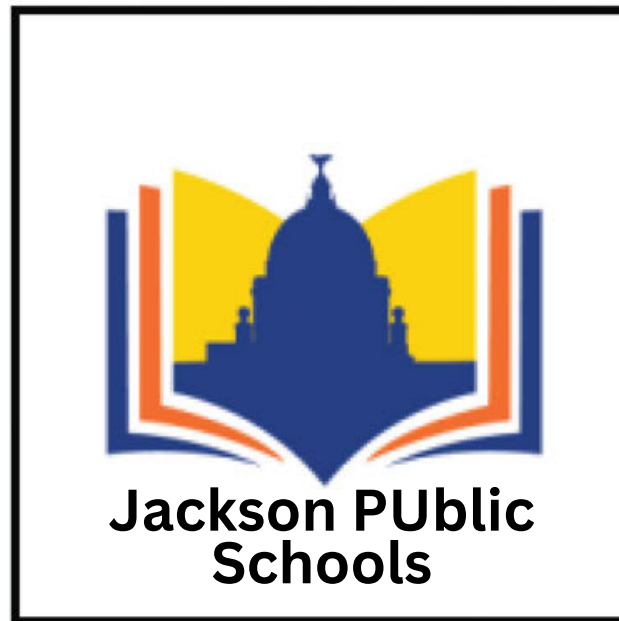
Howard Catchings

Chair" Kappa Alpha Psi F

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWARD CATCHINGS



ROTARIANS IN THE NEWS




**Past President Selena Swartzfager was the program
guide for the Jackson Public Schools Community
Partner Awards Celebration!**

Women IN ROTARY

Congratulations to LeAnne Brewer and Jill Beneke, who were selected as two of the 2025 WOMEN IN ROTARY HONOREES & AWARD RECIPIENTS! They both exemplify Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto.



2025 Women in Rotary







10th ANNIVERSARY

Women IN ROTARY

Recognizing Exceptional Service, Leadership, and Community Impact!


2025 HONOREES & AWARD RECIPIENTS

 Dr. Martha Wells Rotary Club of Jackson	 Jill Beneke Rotary Club of Jackson	 Pat Thomason Rotary Club of Mississippi	 LeAnne Brewer Rotary Club of Jackson
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Tickets: \$50 Table for 8: \$400 Sponsorship: \$800

Online registration: rotary6820.org
 Deadline: February 28, 2025
 Questions: 601-672-7319


Rotary
District 6820



**JILL BENEKE'S 2025
WOMEN IN ROTARY
LUNCHEON
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH**



What an honor, ladies and gentlemen, to be a recipient of this award. It was an honor and a pleasure to be Rotary President in 2016 & 17, and it was such a rewarding experience and gave me a worldly appreciation of “service.” I will forever be humbled by members of Rotary around the globe for their service, commitment, and selfless giving. I’d like to acknowledge the late Henry Holman, who was an outstanding member of our club and sponsored me for membership. He was not only a mentor for me through Rotary but also in my financial services career. A special thanks to Tom Johnson for always being there for me. He was a hard act to follow with his service and love of Rotary. He is a great Rotarian who does many wonderful things for our club and community. He has been a fellow mentor I will always be grateful for and glad to call my friend.

A woman with short brown hair, glasses, and a floral top is speaking into a microphone. She is smiling and looking to the right. The background is a light-colored wall with a dark diagonal stripe in the upper right corner.

LeAnne Brewer's 2025 Women in Rotary Luncheon Acceptance Speech

This year, I'm celebrating 20 years in Rotary! Thank you to Danny Williams, who introduced me to Rotary. Rotary represents the best of us as we try to make the world a better place. Internationally, Rotary's mission is to promote peace, goodwill, & understanding through service. And, locally, you've always believed in me and expected the best of me. I was incredibly honored to serve as the second female president of the Rotary Club of Jackson. I followed Sister Dorothea—an angel on earth who is a tough act to follow! Thanks for being here today, Sister!

Rotary had me at the 4-way test, inspiring me to LIVE it:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

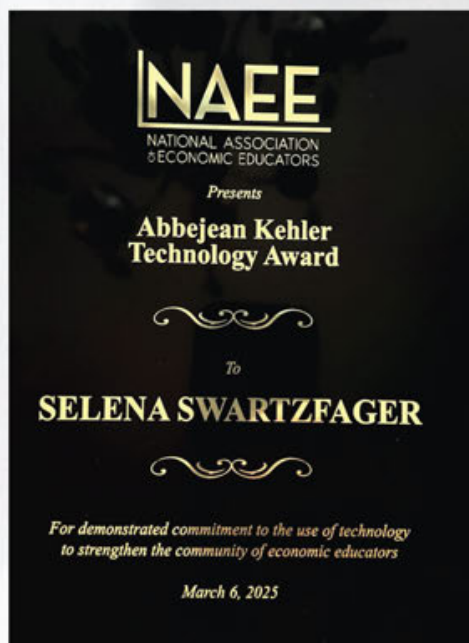
Congratulations



Rotarian Kenny Windham was honored with the Mississippi Association of Broadcaster's Radio Lifetime Achievement Award at the Excellence in Broadcasting Awards Dinner on March 21, 2025.

Congratulations

Past President Selena Cook Swartzfager received the Abbejean Kehler Technology Award at the recent National Association of Economic Educators conference for her demonstrated commitment to the use of technology to strengthen the community of economic educators.



March 3, 2025 Meeting

The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomed Tommy Couch, Jr., President and CEO of Malaco Records. His presentation was “Malaco Records: The Last Soul Company.”



CONGRATULATIONS



Past President Selena Swartzfager Presented Excellence In Education Awards



CONGRATULATIONS

*March 17, 2025
Meeting*

The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomed Kollin Napier with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Director, Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN). His presentation will be “Empowering the Future: AI Education and Workforce Training in Mississippi.”



March 24, 2024 Meeting

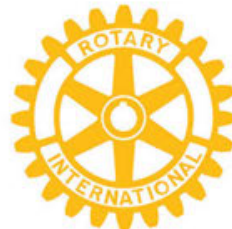
The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomed Chief Cyrus Ben, Tribal Chief, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. His presentation will be "Choctaw Vision: Balancing Tradition with Modern Business." **Special Guest:** 2024-2025 Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen.







Rotary
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Mississippi





March 31, 2024 Meeting

The Rotary Club of Jackson welcomes Meade Mitchell, President of the Mississippi Bar Association.

His presentation will be "Bar Talk By Fellow Rotarian Meade Mitchell, President of the Mississippi Bar Association."







