



Public Relations Association of Mississippi
CENTRAL CHAPTER



Pictured are (from left), Zoie Henson, Jan Schaefer, APR; Vanessa Lowe-Garcia, Shanderia Minor, Patrice Guilfoyle, APR; Chrystelle Thames, APR; Martha Grace Gray, Emily-Kate Ford, Jean Cook, APR; Sophie McNeil Wolf, APR; Paul Katool and Matt Westerfield, APR.

PRAM Central 2025 Board of Directors installed

JACKSON, Miss. – February 6, 2025 - The Public Relations Association of Mississippi Central Chapter installed its 2025 Board of Directors at the organization's chapter meeting Jan. 22, at The Rickhouse by Manship event venue in Jackson, Miss.

The volunteer board consists of 11 accomplished public relations practitioners from the central Mississippi area. Board members manage the nonprofit's operations and create opportunities for the 130-plus chapter members to advance the practice of public relations. Five board members have earned their Accreditation in Public Relations (APR). The chapter is an affiliate of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

The PRAM Central 2025 board was elected by a majority vote of the chapter's membership to lead the chapter's efforts to provide networking, continuing education and professional development to public relations professionals near the Jackson metro area. The officers were sworn in by Patrice Guilfoyle, APR, the 2015 past president of PRAM Central.

"I am honored to serve as the 2025 President of PRAM Central and to lead such a talented and dedicated group of public relations professionals," said Jan Schaefer, APR. "PRAM has played a vital role in my career, and I look forward to working alongside our members to foster professional growth, collaboration, and excellence in strategic communication, further advancing the public relations profession in Mississippi."

The board consists of the following professionals:

Jan Schaefer, APR, resides in Madison and is the president. She is the Director of Communications at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Chrystelle Thames, APR resides in Clinton and serves as president-elect. She is the Director of Communications at The Baptist Children's Village.



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Emily-Kate Ford resides in Clinton and serves as the vice president of programs. She is the Associate Director of Communications for The Baptist Children's Village.

Vanessa Lowe-Garcia resides in Brandon and serves as vice president of membership. She is the Media Relations Director at the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Shanderia Minor resides in Brandon and serves as vice president of communication. She is the Public Information Officer for the Mississippi Department of Education.

Martha Grace Gray resides in Madison and serves as secretary. She is the Art Director at the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Matt Westerfield, APR resides in Pearl and serves as career development coordinator. He is the Communications Director at the Mississippi Division of Medicaid.

Paul Katool resides in Madison and serves as treasurer. He is the Deputy Director of Public Affairs at the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Jean Cook, APR resides in Clinton and is a member-at-large. She is Chief of Communication at the Mississippi Department of Education.

Zoie Henson resides in Flowood and is a member-at-large. She is the Public Relations Specialist at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Sophie McNeil Wolf, APR resides in Jackson and is the immediate past president. She is the Director of Communications and Data at the Community Foundation for Mississippi.

PRAM Central, the largest of nine local chapters geographically located throughout the state, was founded in 1956 and is the top public relations professionals' source for networking, continuing education and professional development throughout central Miss. Its membership consists of public relations professionals from advertising and public relations agencies, corporations and nonprofit organizations, government, education and industrial entities, as well as students studying to become public relations professionals.

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