

MS Tourism Association Board of Directors

The Mississippi Tourism Association (MTA) has announced its 2019-2020 leadership and the recently elected board of directors are:

Annette Rand, MTA's 2019-2020 President; Kelli Carr, MTA's 2020-2021 President; Marlo Dorsey, MTA's Vice President; Chris Chapman, MTA's Secretary/Treasurer; Dede Mogollon, MTA's Past President

Annette Rand has been a part of MTA for over twenty years and has served on the board for most of that time. Annette has served as Secretary and President Elect on the Executive Board. She also chaired two Governor Conference on Tourism events and was named Member of the Year in 2004.

Kelli Carr was named Cleveland's

Tourism Director in 2013. Cleveland has won "Tourism Agency of the Year" in their budget category from 2014-2018.

Marlo Dorsey is the executive director for VisitHATTIESBURG, where she leads Hattiesburg's tourism and destination marketing efforts. She has been in this position since October 2017.

Chris Chapman has served as Executive Director of the Ridgeland Tourism Commission since July 2018 and has over thirty years of experience in the Mississippi hospitality industry. Chris leads a staff of seven to bring visitors to Ridgeland's shopping, dining, and outdoor recreational destination.

Dede Mogollon is the Executive Director of the Visit Meridian/Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau **DBJ**



STATEWIDE

YAZOO CITY: On July 15, Mississippi Cheese Straw Factory® participated in the third annual Made in America Product Showcase at the White House.

"We are excited to once again host businesses from all fifty states at the White House to highlight and celebrate American-made products," a White House official said. "In today's booming economy, President Trump and his Administration are proud to tout businesses that create jobs and support our local communities."

Businesses from each of the fifty states were invited to display their products made and produced in the United States.



MADISON: Casey Smith, General Manager of Reunion Golf & Country Club, has announced the appointment of Kelli Stabbs to the position of Membership & Marketing Director for the celebrated country club and development. Stabbs comes to Reunion with over fourteen years experience in healthcare marketing, promotion, sales, event coordination and business development.



Stabbs

JACKSON: The partners of WIER BOERNER ALLIN Architecture have announced the addition of Matthew Lewis as Project Coordinator. Lewis joins the Jackson-based firm from Mississippi State University's School of Architecture.

The Flowood native graduated from Mississippi State University's School of Architecture in May. During his tenure at MSU, Lewis interned at JH&H Architects in Flowood. He also served as co-gallery coordinator for Giles Hall, where he designed gallery layouts and procured student and professional work for the gallery's exhibitions. **DBJ**



Louis

PeopleShores Brings More Jobs to Clarksdale

PeopleShores, a California-based company, with the help of the Clarksdale and Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce, has joined forces to bring more jobs to the Clarksdale workforce.

"PeopleShores is an outsource company that provides services to large, global corporations such as Federal Express, Accenture, and Amazon," says Jon Levingston, executive director for the Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce. "The services they provide are varied and include work in human resources, insurance reporting, delivery information management, as well as robotic process automation. Many people have referred to PeopleShores as a Call Center. That description is incorrect. They provide sophisticated data processing for major global corporations."

PeopleShores, whose headquarters is in the heart of the Silicon Valley in San Jose, California, plans to scale the Clarksdale

Center to over 200 people.

"PeopleShores began operation in Clarksdale on January 17" Levingston adds. "They began training their first cohort of employees then. Currently, they employee twenty-five local people, all of whom have been certified for Robotic Process Automation. They are currently interviewing people for their next cohort, which they expect to be onboard with in August. The Clarksdale Center is producing work for Federal Express and, through a subcontract, for Microsoft."

Levingston says what this means for Clarksdale is new, well-paying jobs for the community. "They also have trained local labor to perform sophisticated software programing," he adds. "This is no small achievement. They are teaching us and the rest of the state that the labor in the Delta is just as smart, just as capable, and just as able to be trained as any other labor force anywhere." **DBJ**



Levingston