

Kathryn Stokes
Public Relations Manager

Kathryn is another talented NAGC member that I have known since she joined in 2007, when she replaced one of the group members with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. New member Kathryn immediately became involved serving as a Blue Pencil and Gold Screen judge for three categories. Kathryn then spoke at the Albuquerque, New Mexico Communications School as part of the Blue Pencil and Gold Screen panel, where she talked about her judging experience. She has also been a very active member of the Planning Committee for 2 years. While in Orlando with the 2009 Communications School, Kathryn was also working on communications and logistics with the Host Organizational Committee planning the annual national conference for the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appellate Boards. Her duties included researching Mississippi, in particular, Memphis for items of interest to attendees at the conference. Planning a trip to Memphis? Talk with Kathryn before you go, she can point you to all the best restaurants and places of interest. She might even know another town that you should visit on your trip.

Kathryn worked in the telecommunications field for 15 years before working briefly as a contractor training Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) baggage screeners. She then took a temporary position at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security working on their Continuity of Operations Plan. When the Public Relations Manager resigned abruptly 18 months later, Kathryn was encouraged to apply and was ultimately hired as the Public Relations Manager. Kathryn has an AA degree from Jacinto College and a B.S. in Speech Communication from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Kathryn is an active member and supporter of Toastmasters International. She is currently the Vice President of Public Relations for Echelon Toastmasters and the Past president. She deserves much of the credit for organizing and promoting the Echelon chapter, which was chartered a year ago. She holds a Competent Communications Certificate and is a charter member of the Central Mississippi Advanced Toastmasters club.

Kathryn is also an author who has written four books: two mystery/suspense; one romance; and one instructional, teaching small to medium businesses how to write a Continuity of Operations Plan. She took on this task after working with businesses in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. She learned that 70% of the small businesses will never recover from the devastation. Much of this failure is due to a lack of planning for such a disaster as Katrina. Her goal is to give small businesses the basic guidance they need to be prepared to continue operating in the face of disaster.

When Kathryn isn't working, volunteering or writing, she spends time with her Jack Russell, Parson or traveling. She is a firm believer in "Have passport will travel." When you see her at the next Communications School, ask her where she has been lately.