



# Bulletin

## East Memphis Rotary Club

Beth Dowdie, President

October 4, 2023  
Photographer: Bill Pickens  
2023-2024  
Our 35th Year

[www.rotaryclubofmemphiseast.org](http://www.rotaryclubofmemphiseast.org)

Meeting 12:00 Noon

Shady Grove Event Center, 5530 Shady Grove, Memphis, TN 38120

### Upcoming Meetings

October 11, 2023

Brett Batterson  
Memphis Orpheum CEO

October 18, 2023

Dr. Bill Hardgrave  
University of Memphis

October 25, 2023

Marianne Dunavant  
Ford Blue Oval City

November 1, 2023

Terry Blue  
Memphis International  
Airport

November 8, 2023

Carol Coletta  
Memphis River Parks

November 15, 2023

Veterans Day Program

November 22, 2023

No Meeting  
Thanksgiving Week

November 29, 2023

Robin Dambrino  
6800 District Governor

December 6, 2023

White Station Elementary  
Christmas Luncheon



December 14, 2023  
Holiday Party

December 20, 2023

No Meeting  
Christmas Week



### Speaker Sponsor

### October 11, 2023 Brett Batterson, CEO Memphis Orpheum



Brett Batterson self-identifies as a New York born, midwestern-raised man with strong southern influences. Specifically, he was born in upstate New York, but his family moved to Davenport, Iowa when he was an infant. The strong influences come from a combined 22 years of living in the American south. In fact, Brett has lived in eleven different states, but Tennessee is the only one he has lived in twice and the state he has lived in the longest.

His professional life began as a Theatrical Scenic Designer and technician, working at such theatres as The Guthrie Theatre, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Idaho Summer Repertory Theatre, Chattanooga Theatre Centre and Theatre Midland.

For five years he owned a scenic studio in Chattanooga, creating scenery and exhibits for The Nashville Network, The Grand Ole Opry, Toyota, Honda of America, Chattanooga Regional History Museum, United States National Park Service, Tennessee Aquarium and many others.

Brett became President & CEO of the Orpheum Theatre Group on January 1, 2016. In this role, the theatre and its second facility, the Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education, has dramatically expanded its programming, bringing the best of Broadway, music, comedy and community events to its stages.

In the community, Brett is an active Rotarian, having been a member of Chicago's Rotary One before transferring to the Rotary Club of Memphis. He is a two-time Paul Harris Fellow and will become president of the Memphis club in 2024.

### October 4, 2023 The Salvation Army

by Cal Overman



We had such an inspiring meeting this week. Major Tim Gilliam and Aaron Keegan shared the history of the local chapter of The Salvation Army, along with all the things they do to support the Memphis community. Five local churches worked together to bring the Salvation Army to Memphis in 1900. Most known, for the "ringing the bell" during the holidays, this also is their biggest

fundraiser. Our Rotary Club is being challenged to have every member volunteer this year. Stay tuned for additional information in the coming weeks. The Collierville Club most always has 100% participation. What about a friendly competition this year!!

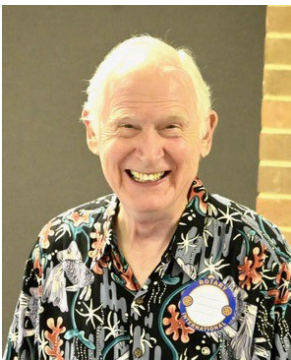


Help grow Rotary and your Wallet at the same time! Bring in a new Member and get \$100 cash!



John Seabold, East Memphis Rotary Foundation board member, along with President Beth Dowdie presented Bill Pickens with a \$3,000 grant for the Gift of Life Jordan Mission. The grant will provide funds to support the doctors and technicians traveling to Jordan to perform life-saving heart surgeries on 25 children from the Middle East.

### Guests



*Rodger Lewis visited again this week and joined us at Thirsty Thursday*



*Tracie Stephens guest of Beth Dowdie*



*Dallas Strickland guest of Neal Graham*

### Thirsty Thursday at Thornwood

Our first Thirsty Thursday hosted by Nina Gourley at Thornwood in Germantown was a huge success. Nina has set the bar high for the first Thursday of each month designated as Thirsty Thursday. Members and guests enjoyed winding down their day with refreshments and visiting with fellow Rotarians and guests.

Although we say monthly, our next Thirsty Thursday will be held on the first Thursday of January 2024 as November and December of '23 are full with holiday events. If you already have your 2024 calendar, please note the first Thursday of each month as Thirsty Thursday. You will have plenty of notice about when and where you can enjoy another East Memphis Rotary social event.

