

Joe Buck Coates

Joe Buck Coates, serving as president in 2010, is the publisher of the award-winning Copeiah County Courier, Inc., in Hazlehurst. Coates also serves as a board member of the Trustees of the Copeiah County Economic Development District. After having served as chairman of the 2009 Rocking Railroad Steering Committee, Coates will once again serve in the same role in 2010.

A 1988 graduate of Copeiah Academy, Coates completed his Bachelor's of Business Administration at Mississippi State University in 1993. Coates' professional career began at Stringer Funeral Home and Sanderson Farms, Inc. of Hazlehurst. He joined the Copeiah County Courier in November of 1996 as an account executive and was promoted to publisher in 2002 when former owner Jim Lambert sold the business to Henry Carney of Crystal Springs and John Carney of Monticello.

Coates is also a member of the Mississippi Press Association and the National Newspaper Association and has served on committees of the Relay for Life. Coates has been an MAIS sports official for 14 years as a member of the District 8 Officials Association. He also is a member of the Southwest Officials association of the MHSAA.

He and his wife Karen reside in Wesson along with their children. They are members of the Hazlehurst United Methodist Church.