

Bess Averett  
Executive Director  
Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign

Bess Averett has served as the Executive Director of Friends of VNMP and Campaign since 2011, when the volunteer organization first hired staff. Prior to her current position, Averett was the Public Relations Manager for Ameristar Casino, and Executive Director of the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University, majoring in Communication and Public Relations. She has served nationally on the National Park Friends Alliance Board of Directors since 2019. Averett serves on the Board of Directors of the Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, where she was past Chairperson. She serves or has served in numerous board positions in the region including the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society, and Rotary Club.