



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

11:30 AM Buffet Opens | 12:00 Noon Meeting Begins
Great Hall, Clinton Center

Kay C. Goss, CEM, Former Assistant Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Resilience on a Tightrope: FEMA's Evolving Role Amid Budget Cuts and Rising Risks

As climate-related disasters become more frequent and complex, the role of FEMA – and emergency management as a whole - is undergoing a critical transformation. Join Kay Goss, former Associate Director of FEMA and a nationally recognized leader in disaster preparedness, for an in-depth look at how federal, state, and local agencies can build resilience in the face of shrinking budgets.

Drawing on decades of experience at the highest levels of government, Goss will share how public-private partnerships, innovation, and community-driven strategies are becoming essential tools for navigating today's risk landscape.

A pioneer in emergency management, Goss led FEMA's preparedness, mitigation, and response efforts under President Clinton and began her public service career as a senior aide to then-Governor Bill Clinton. A native of Arkansas, she has also served as a university lecturer, prolific author, and global advisor to emergency management agencies. Her unique perspective offers valuable insights for anyone working to strengthen communities in an era of accelerating threats and limited resources.



Kay Goss, a native of Tontitown, has dedicated her career to public administration and emergency management. She earned her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Arkansas, pursued doctoral studies in Public Administration at West Virginia University and American University, and has taught part-time at UA, UALR, ATU, and UAFS.

Her extensive public service includes roles as Chief Deputy State Auditor, Research Director for the 1979–80 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, and Project Director for the Association of Arkansas Counties. She served as a senior assistant to two Arkansas governors, coordinating fire services, emergency management, EMS, public safety, and law enforcement for 12 years.

At the federal level, Goss was nominated by the President and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Associate Director of FEMA, overseeing National Preparedness, Training, Higher Education, Exercises, and International Partnerships. After her government service, she worked in the private sector as a senior emergency manager and homeland security advisor with Electronic Data Systems and later as Director of Emergency Management Services at SRA International.

She is a Senior Fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration and serves on the Board of Advisors for DRONERESPONDERS International. As a dedicated educator, she has been a graduate professor of emergency management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for 16 years, Istanbul Technical University for 12 years, Metropolitan College of New York for five years, and George Mason University.

Goss has been a Certified Emergency Manager for 27 years and has served on advisory councils for Arkansas Tech University's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program (28 years) and Metropolitan College of New York's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program (15 years). She is also the founder of FEMA's Higher Education Program, established in 1994, which has grown from a few institutions to over 600 nationwide.

With a lifetime of service and expertise, Kay Goss continues to shape the future of emergency management and public administration.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89387587197?pwd=gtcQ5xMH0RWaOAeTdbSnCmR7MXiuUm.1>

Meeting ID: 893 8758 7197
Passcode: 642126

One tap mobile
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+16469313860,,89387587197#,,,,*642126# US

Upcoming Programs

May 2025

May 6: Kay Goss, Former Assistant Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency Resilience on a Tightrope: FEMA's Evolving Role Amid Budget Cuts and Rising Risks

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May 13: 80 Years of Workforce Development at UA-Pulaski Tech College (UA-PTC), Summer deProw, Ph.D., Chancellor

Founded in October 1945 as the Little Rock Vocational School, UA-PTC has evolved over the past 80 years into a cornerstone of workforce development, playing a vital role in supporting the state's economic growth. In February 2017, the institution became part of the University of Arkansas System, marking a new chapter in its history. Join us as Chancellor Summer deProw reflects on the school's rich history, highlights recent achievements, and shares her vision for the future of UA-PTC.

May 20: Battle of Fallujah 20th Anniversary, Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of School, Episcopal Collegiate

Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of Episcopal Collegiate School, will share his remarkable story as an aircraft maintenance officer with Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242, the "Bats," during their historic 2004-2005 deployment to Iraq. Stationed at Al-Asad Airbase, the Bats maintained a record-setting operational tempo, flying F/A-D Hornets, delivering over 8,000 flight hours and 400,000 pounds of precision ordnance in support of coalition forces, including critical air support during Operation Phantom Fury's Second Battle of Fallujah and Iraq's first democratic elections in January 2005.

The talk goes beyond military history - it's a compelling exploration of leadership, resilience, and teamwork under pressure. Jamie will share insights from this award-winning deployment, honored as "Marine Fighter Squadron of the Year" in 2005, and share strategic lessons that continue to guide his leadership in education today. Whether you're inspired by aviation, history, or practical leadership strategies applicable to any field, this presentation will captivate and inspire.

May 27: Business Professional Leader of the Year, Chris Johnson, Chair and College Scholarships, Sarah Beth Estes, Chair

Special Events and Meetings

Affinity Group: Club 99 Book Club: Chair Sarah Bennings

Date: May 7, 2025

Time: 12:00 noon - lunch provided

Location: Episcopal School, 1701 Cantrell Road

Host and Moderator: Jamie Griffin

Book: *10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People: A Groundbreaking Approach to Leading the Next Generation and Making Your Own Life Easier* by David Yeager

July 2025

Host: Kristina Bolhouse

Affinity Group: Women of Rotary

Chair: Kim Kirkman

Time: 8:15 AM

Via Zoom

Dates & Topics:

May 30, 2025, Wrap up: Life to the Fullest

Service Opportunities:

May 10, 2025, Miracle League Club 99 Buddy Day, Coordinator, Charlie Kreps

April/May, TBA, Dunbar Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Coordinator Beth Barnes

May 12 (tentative), Dunbar Honors Assembly, Coordinator, Beth Barnes

Club Leaders



[Jason Chacko](#)
President



[Mitch Bettis](#)
President-Elect



[Molly McNulty](#)
President-Nominee



[Natalie Ghidotti](#)
iPast President

[Drew Harper](#)
Treasurer

[Greg McCarroll](#)
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[Amy Meins](#)
Secretary



[Rachel O'Neal](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Juli Brandenberger](#)
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[Tanya James](#)
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