



## The Rotary Club of Little Rock: 2nd Quarter Recap

### Meeting Videos and Pictures

Missed a meeting in the 2nd quarter of the Rotary year? Check out the videos below! Thank you to Chris Mangum, program chair and all 99ers who stepped up and stepped in to produce such a great line-up of programs.

**September 3, 2024: Arkansas Times 50th Anniversary, Alan Leveritt, Founder, Austin Gelder, Managing Editor, Wythe Walker, Development Director, moderated and produced by Ellon Cockrill**

[Link to watch 9.3.24 meeting](#)



**September 10, 2024: Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Grand Opening, Christina Littlejohn, CEO, Geoffrey Robson, Music Director, moderated and produced by 99er Past President Natalie Ghidotti**

[Link to watch 9.10.24 meeting](#)



**September 17, 2024: Little Rock Fight Litter Campaign, Rex Nelson, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 99er Michael Bynum, Suzanne Hirrell, Ret. Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Lennie Massanelli, City of Little Rock Sustainability Officer, moderated and produced by 99er Capi Peck, Trios, City of Little Rock Board of Directors**  
[Link to watch 9.17.24 meeting](#)





September 24, 2024: Six Bridges Festival, Ayana Gray, Author, moderated by Tameka Lee, produced by Nate Coulter

[Link to watch 9.24.24 meeting](#)



**October 1, 2024: Venture Center Overview & Update, Arthur Orduna, Executive Director and Daniel Schutte, V.P. Strategic Partnership Programs, moderated and produced by Chris Mangum**  
[Link to watch 10.1.24 meeting](#)





**October 8, 2024: Artificial Intelligence (AI), 99er, Past President, Congressman French Hill**  
[Link to watch 10.8.24 meeting](#)



October 15, 2024: *Winthrop Rockefeller: From New Yorker to Arkansawyer*, John Kirk, Author, moderated and produced by Chris Mangum  
[Link to watch 10.15.24 meeting](#)





**October 22, 2024: PGA TOUR The Simmons Bank Champions, Freddie Black, Tournament Chair, Pdraig Harrington, Pro Golfer, moderated and produced by 99er Past President Aaron Lubin**  
[Link to watch 10.22.24 meeting](#)



October 29, 2024: Election 2024: Jay Barth, Rex Nelson, Robert Coon, produced by Chris Mangum

[Link to watch 10.29.24 meeting](#)





**November 5, 2024: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Walton School of Business, Dean Brent Williams, Ph.D., produced by Shannon Heard**  
[Link to watch 11.5.24 meeting](#)



**November 12, 2024: The National Cold War Center, Liz Smith, Executive Director, Mississippi County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Christian Ostermann, Founding Director, History and Public Policy Program (HAPP)**  
[Link to watch 11.12.24 meeting](#)





**November 19, 2024: 20th Anniversary of the Clinton Presidential Center, Stephanie Street, Clinton Center, Jay Barth, Clinton Presidential Center, Mike Hemphill, Clinton School of Public Service moderated by Lena Hayes**  
[Link to watch 11.19.24 meeting](#)



## Member Connections

Videos to feature 99ers and their ways of making connections across the globe.

September: **Past President Gary Parrish** [link to video](#)

Past President Parrish talks about his love for travel born out of a Rotary International and Club 99 Grant in partnership with Heifer for a humanitarian project in Romania.

October: **Billy Roehrenbeck** [link to video](#)

Billy takes us back to his childhood and fond memories of "road-trips" with his grandparents in a Winnebago and his plans to share this love with his wife and daughter.

November: **Past President Bill Booker** [link to video](#) Past President Booker pulls the curtain back on his passion for Broadway and how he incorporated that love into his presidential theme. Forever known as our "singing" president.

## President Chacko's Connections

During his year, President Chacko with the theme of Global Hearts, Local Hands, Chacko is utilizing the President's minute to highlight Rotary Clubs around the globe. With more than 46,000 clubs worldwide, we will take a minute to learn about one other club a week, from their history, membership or special projects they support.

**September 3: The Rotary Magazine**, This week, I am not highlighting a lone club, but an international initiative: the Rotary Magazine. The first issue came out in 1911 as the National Rotarian, with the National part dropped in 1912, when international clubs were opened in Canada, Ireland and England. The first article included an article from our Founder Paul Harris titled "what is the Philosophy of Rotary as you understand it?". During WWII, many dignitaries published commentaries about the effects of war on humanity, including Winston Churchill, H.G. Wells, Mohandas Gandhi, George Bernard Shaw and J. Edgar Hoover. Distribution continued as Rotary grew, and now more than 1.5mm people around the world receive the magazine every month, and there are over 30 officially licensed regional magazines, published in more than 20 languages. The cost is just \$18 a year, and included with dues for our active members, and has proven to be an excellent way to stay up to date on international humanitarian issues and the efforts that Rotarians around the world are supporting. If you are looking for a more local connection, then I'll point you to page 62 of the September issue, where you can see the crossword puzzle designed by our own Club 99er Vic Fleming, a regular contributor to the magazine! So, with that, we will toast the ongoing work of the Rotary Magazine and their work to keep all Rotarians connected!

**September 10: Rotary Club of Lublin Centrum and The Paul Harris Music School for Children with Disabilities.** This week, I had planned on speaking about the Rotary Club of Vienna, one of the many supporters of the Vienna Philharmonic, but I stumbled across a more interesting connection from the September 2013 issue of The Rotarian Magazine that was too good to pass up! The location is a full sentence, so bear with me, but The Rotary Club of Lublin-Centrum-Maria Curie Skłodowska was founded in 1996, and is one of 79 clubs in Poland. While they are not a major donor to an orchestra publicly, they support a project that combines a passion for the arts with the Rotary motto of service above self. The Rotary club has provided funding with help from the Rotary Foundation Matching Grants program to the Henryk



Wieniawski Musical Society, particularly one school they house. Get ready for it; since 2002, they support the Paul Harris Music School for Children with Disabilities, named in honor of Rotary founder Paul Harris. As of the article in 2013, the school serves 20 students with various disabilities, including Downs Syndrome, Autism and Visual impairments. Students take piano lessons free of charge, and many regard music as a form of therapy for sensory sensitive students. What an incredible way to add the magic of art to more lives. So, with that, we will toast the Rotary Club of Lublin Centrum, and the Paul Harris Music School for Children with Disabilities!

**September 17: Rotary Club of Chattanooga,** This week, to continue our march up the list of the largest Rotary Clubs in the US, we move to the Rotary Club of Chattanooga. There are a lot of things that align with our Club; The city of Chattanooga is positioned on the Tennessee River, much like our view of the Arkansas River outside the window there; their population is 184k, we are just over 202k, and they pride themselves on their balance between urban and natural attractions. We are the 15th largest club, they are the 13th. We are the 99th Club chartered, they were the 103rd, founded in 1914. They are the largest and oldest Club in their district at 329 members, although not the largest in the state of Tennessee, saved for another day. They have produced one Rotary International President, John Germ from 2016, and we have Carl Rosenbaum, past club president and Rotary International Board of Directors for three years. The Club is active, with a focus on education, establishing 15 virtual learning centers in the city, much like our Literacy Lab. Through their fundraising and foundation efforts, they were able to donate more than \$227,000 in 2021, supporting children's education, as well as first responders during quarantine, where they donated over \$5,000 worth of meals to nurses and healthcare workers at their local hospitals. For all our similarities, there are a few things our Club can be proud of, from diversity of service to club demographics like average length of membership, but I don't think we need to focus on that! Sometimes It's nice to just recognize our peers in the fight to make the world a better place, and I'd ask that you all remember the Four-way test as we learn about other clubs. So, with that, we will toast the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, a sister club in the South!

**September 24: Basic Education and Literacy Action Group of Rotary (BELRAG),** This week, to tie into our program, and we get to talk about Literacy! You are all aware of the five-year strategic focus our Club has had on improving literacy rates in Little Rock, and many of you are still helping with the Gibbs Literacy Lab, starting here in a few weeks! Since September is National Literacy Month, I thought it would be a good idea to highlight a larger initiative, the National BELRAG, or Basic Education and Literacy Action Group inside Rotary. Rotary International deemed literacy to be a program priority going back to 1978, and actually declared a fifteen-year emphasis on literacy in 1985. In 2011, Rotary International approved the establishment of BELRAG, a network of Rotarians across the country and now the globe who are focused on alleviating illiteracy. Their focus is mostly awareness of the consequences of illiteracy in terms of human experience worldwide through their website and periodicals. Our District 6150 Governor, Brian Rega, actually made his monthly newsletter about his literacy journey on the homepage of DacDB, if you have a chance to log in and read through, and we are fortunate to have one of the six Executive Committee members here in our backyard: past District Governor Nancy Leonhardt of the West Little Rock Rotary Club. You can check out the BELRAG website for more info, but for now we will Toast the Basic Education and Literacy Action Group of Rotary as they continue to raise awareness worldwide!

**October 1: Rotary Great Britain and Ireland Technology Tournament,** This week, to tie into our program, I wanted to see how Rotarians around the world are supporting next generation tech development. The most interesting project I found was actually a country-wide initiative; Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland hosts an annual series of youth competitions for art, cooking, music and public speaking. They also host the annual RIBI Technology Tournament, a program open to all young people in the country. It is split into three age groups, ranging from 7 years old up to 17, and the students form teams of four. They compete in a one-day timed competition, where they are challenged to design, develop, build and test a solution to an unknown technical challenge. The challenge is accredited by The British Science Association, and is consistent with the requirements of the national curriculum. The event is entirely funded by local Rotary Clubs, with most of the support coming from local member technology companies. I can't think of a better way to drive innovation than challenging teams to find different solutions for the same problem, and how great it is to teach creative problem-solving while kids are in school! With that, we will Toast the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland Technology Tournament, and their drive for next generation innovation!

**October 8: E-Club of Innovation, East Anglia, England,** This week, to tie into our program, I began researching the use of Artificial Intelligence in Rotary, and found a neat presentation from Luis Goncalves from 2021, and we will send out the link with our weekly newsletter. But it allowed me to stumble upon a new-to-me concept, since he spoke at the Rotary Club of Innovation, an e-Club. An e-Club is an online-only club that still meets weekly, but the mission statement is 'to allow members to use their time, talents, professional skills and energy to improve the lives of people in their local communities and others around the world.' There are over 805 E-clubs worldwide, with 304 of them presented in English every week. The E-Club of Innovation was founded in 2014, and is based in England, and they currently have 34 registered members, along with multiple electronic guests every week. Using Rotary as a way to share information, like what's on the horizon for Artificial Intelligence, around the world seems to directly answer the question, is it beneficial to all concerned? So for that, we will toast the E-Club of Innovation out of East Anglia, England, for making innovation available to Rotarians around the world! [LINK](#)

[???????](#)**October 15: Rotary Club of Wichita, Kansas,** This week, we will continue our way up the list of largest clubs in the United States; we are the 15th largest club in the country, and we've already touched on Milwaukee and Chattanooga, so next up is Wichita, Kansas! Chartered on November 18th, 1911, the Rotary Club of Wichita was the 30th club to be chartered, after its founder, Harry Stanley, attended one of the early Club One meetings in Chicago. He remained involved for more than 52 years with the club. Interestingly, the club was one of the first to face the old rules of gender exclusion; the women who were not allowed to join the club decided to form their own auxiliary club, called the Rotary Anns, in 1922. While they participated where they could, it wasn't until 1986 that women were voted by the Board of Directors as members of the club. But it was a year later that a Supreme Court decision overturned the national ban on female members, and when the Rotary Anns were recognized as true Rotarians worldwide.

Now their club better represents the demographics of Wichita across the board, all the way up to their current President-Elect, Mrs. Ebony Clemons. I had the pleasure of meeting their current president, Jake Wayman, at the Rotary Large Club Conference in Baton Rouge last year, and we continue to talk and share ideas regularly; their Club reflects our goals of being a positive influence on their community. Their club has a community focus on youth and literacy as well; their service partner Reading Is Fundamental, helps them distribute approximately 24,000 books to elementary-age children, with volunteers delivering the books in person twice a year. they also have annual service projects with the Boy Scouts of America, Junior Achievement of Kansas, Habitat for Humanity and the Kansas City Literacy Festival. Its clear to see, they leverage partnerships to make sure they continue the mission of *Service above Self*. So, with that, we'll Toast the Rotary Club of Wichita, Kansas, the 12th largest Club in the Country!

**October 22: International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians,** This week, I decided to highlight not a single club, but one of the oldest affinity groups in Rotary International! The International Golf Fellowship of Rotarians is one of 75 social groups organized at the RI level, founded at the birthplace of golf, through the Rotary Club of St Andrews, Scotland, in 1964. The Rotary Club of St Andrew's has hosted an annual golf tournament on the old course at St. Andrews since 1955, and they just hosted their 64th back in June. But the IGFR has expanded well beyond those hallowed fairways, and now have hosted Rotary Golf tournaments in 61 different countries, primarily in Australia, Europe and North America, but according to their website, they are exploring tournaments in Africa, Asia and South America as well. The last contest, the 59th IGFR World Championship, was hosted at Torrey Pines in San Diego back in September. They also host charitable events during these tournaments, so it's a great way to combine Rotary's missions of Community Service, Programs and Networking with a love of travel and golf, and may be a good way to get to play some of the more challenging courses to get access to! The next tee time is Nov of 2025 in Hyderabad, India, In case you want to add it to your calendar! So with that, we'll toast the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians and their missions of fellowship around the world!

**October 29: Rotary Club of San Antonio, Texas,** This week, we will continue up the list of largest clubs in the US, and we are almost to the top 10! Number 11 is one of the few clubs larger and lower than us; San Antonio, Texas. The San Antonio Club was founded in 1912, and will be celebrating their 112th year of service this Friday. Their focus has been on youth and education since day 1, from supporting local orphans and Boy Scout Troops, to establishing the Youth Education Foundation in 1984, a scholarship that has supported hundreds of local students over the past 40 years. They also established the Sam J. Riklin Rotary Diploma Plus Program, the largest dropout prevention program in the nation, that provides monetary incentives and mentors for good grades and attendance. They also continue their Kingdom for Kids program, a hands-on service program that builds playgrounds and sports fields in underserved areas of the city. But they are not just focused on local kids; they helped to fix the roof of the Alamo, forever may it be remembered, and they were able to host the 2001 Rotary International Convention, where they invited more than 24,000 people from 133 different countries to celebrate Rotary and show off their city, and where they were able to introduce a new idea; they launched Rotary Internationals very first District Donor Advised Fund, which continues in perpetuity to benefit their district. So with that, we will toast the Rotary Club of San Antonio, Texas, the 52nd Rotary Club founded, and their legacy of letting their actions speak louder than words!

**November 5: Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City and National Indian holiday of Diwali,** This week, I'd like to start with a little attention to detail... you may have

noticed, as we roll through the largest club list, I'm very careful to say the largest clubs in the United States, and that's because India exists. The first Rotary club was the Rotary Club of Calcutta, chartered on January 1, 1920, followed closely by the Rotary club of Madras, chartered on July 19th. Now, there are 4,750 clubs in the country, with more than 173,000 members. India accounts for 5/20 of the largest clubs in the world, including the world's largest club in Andhra Pradesh with 855 members. South Korea accounts for 2/20, and the rest are US clubs. But I'm focusing on India this week, in particular the Rotary Club of Bombay, called the Queen City club, not because of their size or their club age, but because this weekend was a big holiday for our fellow Rotarians, the Diwali Festival. Diwali is a five-day national holiday, called the Festival of Lights, and is meant to symbolize the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The festival involves lights, fireworks and special sweets, which you were able to enjoy for dessert today thanks to our friends at the Clinton Library and restaurant 42. We also have a few pictures from Club 99er Rajesh Chokhani from this weekend, showing the Diwali celebration around town this weekend, for you to look through on the screen. We were hoping to get some videos from this week's featured club, the Rotary Club of Bombay, where Rajesh's uncle is currently the Club President, but we had some technology issues over the weekend and weren't able to put them together in time. Regardless, I was grateful to learn more about my own heritage this week, and hope you enjoyed learning a little about another way that Rotarians can get together and celebrate friendship and fellowship around the world! So with that, we will toast the Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City, and the National Indian holiday of Diwali!

**November 12: Rotaract Clubs and Rotaract Club of Little Rock**, This week, we are highlighting not just one club, but an entire organization: the Rotaract Program, short for "Rotary in Action." Rotaract began as a youth program in 1968 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and has grown to almost 11,000 clubs in 184 different countries. Their focus is to help young professionals develop as leaders in their communities through mentorship and global service projects. The Rotaract Website has testimonials from the past 56 years, the decades of history of service, talking not only about professional development, but also personal friendships during turbulent times. From Rotaracters learning cross-cultural understanding during the Civil War in Sri Lanka in the 80s, to French students starting Rotaract Clubs in Ukraine after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the 90s, Rotaract has served another purpose: a neutral place for young people to meet and share ideas. In 2019, Rotary made a significant shift, moving the Rotaract Program, an organization dependent on a sponsor Rotary club, to full membership in Rotary International, making them true "partners in service." The Rotaract Club of Little Rock was chartered in 2011 by the Rotary Club of Little Rock, and meets the first Thursday of every month for lunch at the US Pizza in Hillcrest. We have been fortunate to welcome many members to our Club over the years, including our current membership chair, Ross Burnett. Rotaract members in good standing enjoy partnership with our Club, including welcoming members as guests to our weekly meetings, but also a streamlined process to joining our club when they are ready. So, with that, we can toast the Rotaract Club worldwide, as well as our local friends at the Rotaract Club of Little Rock!

**November 19: Community-leadership Training of Rotary**, This week's program had me curious about correlation: How many US Presidents know the 4-way Test? It was a little difficult to find out, since there is no one database that I could find that tracked membership based off public visibility; but after a few Google searches, I was able to put together a list. Paul Harris started Rotary in Chicago in 1905, while Teddy Roosevelt was President. Since then, we've seen 11/20 US Presidents wear the Rotary Wheel lapel pin, starting with Woodrow Wilson and including Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. As a matter of fact, President-Elect Donald Trump is a past president of the Rotary Club of New York 6. Since President Clinton is not currently a member, we have the unique opportunity to invite him to be a guest at one of our meetings in case anyone in the room would like to host him! With that, we will toast the community-leadership training of Rotary, and prepare for our program!

## Welcome, New and Returning Members

Club 99 welcomed several new members during September, October and November! Thrilled to say WELCOME to new members and returning members and thank you to their sponsors. If you know of a friend or colleague that wants to join the largest and BEST civic organization in the state, reach out to Membership Chair, **Ross Burnett**.  
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**Taekwon Lee, ATA International, sponsored by Sun Lee; Sun Lee, ATA, returning member; Debbie Teague, The Janet Jones Company, sponsored by Michael Teague; Layne Hatcher, Group Health Captive, sponsored by Greg Hatcher**





**Frank Cuervo, UALR Director of Athletics, sponsored by Elizabeth Small; Jane Johnson, returning member; Charlie Porter, Stephens, sponsored by Matt Olson; Janet Marshall, Baptist Health Foundation, sponsored by Danielle Collie**





Phil Brandon, Rock Town Distillery, sponsored by Juli Brandenberger; David Michael, Bank of America, sponsored by Ross Burnett



### Special Events and Meetings

**Service:** Check out pictures from our first in-meeting service project. In partnership with Central Arkansas Library System (CALS). Members packed 200 comfort kits to be distributed to our unhomed community.









Club 99 Social: Happy Hour at ASO's new building





Service: Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry





Service: Drug Take Back Day at Park Plaza





#### Club Leaders

[Jason Chacko](#)  
President

[Mitch Bettis](#)  
President-Elect

[Molly McNulty](#)  
President-Nominee

[Natalie Ghidotti](#)  
iPast President



[Drew Harper](#)  
Treasurer



[Greg McCarroll](#)  
Treasurer-Elect



[Amy Meins](#)  
Secretary



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



[Juli Brandenberger](#)  
Club Director



[Nate Coulter](#)  
Club Director



[Becky Finney](#)  
Club Director



[Lena Hayes](#)  
Club Director



[Tanya James](#)  
Club Director



[Viji Kuruvilla](#)  
Club Director



[John Monroe](#)  
Club Director



[Kevin Newton](#)  
Club Director



[Wendy Wood](#)  
Club Director



[Ross Burnett](#)  
Membership Chair



[Chris Mangum](#)  
Club Programs Chair



[Jamie Higgins](#)  
International Service Chair



[Dan Parker](#)  
Club Service Chair

