

Illuminate the Rock

Rotary
La Petite Roche 

Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

About the Program: Arkansas's Maternity Health Crisis

Please join us Tuesday for the next discussion in our series of quarterly panels on important topics impacting our society. The April 25 panel discussion, with **Dr. Pearl Anna McElfish**, **Dr. Gloria Richard-Davis**, **Dr. Eddie Phillips** and moderator **Anna Beth Gorman**, will address maternal health in Arkansas, a state that, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the country. Learn from experts in maternal and community health.

Plus, get a sneak peek at the new short film "[Giving Birth in America: Arkansas](#)," executive produced by **Christy Turlington Burns**, founder and president of [Every Mother Counts \(EMC\)](#). The [world premiere](#) of the film will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at the Capital Hotel. The reception, screening and talkback are free to attend, but attendees must register [here](#) in advance.



Gloria Richard-Davis, M.D., MBA, NCMP, FACOG; OB-GYN/REI and Executive Director, UAMS Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Dr. Gloria Richard-Davis is a tenured professor, board certified in reproductive endocrinology and infertility and obstetrics and gynecology. She is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAMS. Dr. Richard-Davis has served as executive director for the UAMS Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion since January 2020, as well as medical director for the UAMS Physician Assistants program. Her passionate holistic approach to patient care propelled her to foster the development of the UAMS Culinary Medicine Program, where she serves as the program director and lead instructor. She joined the UAMS faculty in January 2013.

Richard-Davis has more than 25 years of experience in women's health and reproductive endocrinology and in general obstetrics and gynecology. Her research and passion is in health disparities that disproportionately affect women of color. She serves and has served in leadership positions in medical professional societies, including the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the North American Menopause Society, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is an oral board examiner for American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She serves on the Arkansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee. She is a key opinion and thought leader in women's health. She is also the recipient of many awards, grants for her research and scholarly activities. She has authored books and more than 50 peer-reviewed publications.

Pearl McElfish, Ph.D., MBA, MS; Director, UAMS Office of Community Health and Research

Pearl McElfish serves as the founding Director of the Office of Community Health and Research at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). She holds a Ph.D. in public health policy, a master's degree in business administration, and a master's degree in community and economic development. She is a certified Project Management Professional and a Certified Community Developer.

McElfish is a national and international leader in food systems research and methodological research related to the best methods for conducting community-based participatory research and disseminating research results to participants and communities.

In addition to her research, McElfish has led large inter- and intra- institutional efforts to develop academic programs, graduate medical education, clinical programs and population health efforts.

She has a history of funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and other private foundations. She has been awarded more than \$180 million in federal, state and private foundation grants, and she has published more than 230 peer-reviewed articles.

Rosalyn Perkins, MNSc, APRN, WHCNP-BC

Rosalyn Perkins is a practicing Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Director of the High-Risk Pregnancy Program in the Institute for Digital Health & Innovation at UAMS. She is an award recipient for contributions to the health and welfare of mothers and babies in Arkansas, and for the past 20 years she has focused on health care access and patient care management through telemedicine programs. The program's mission is "to ensure that every woman in Arkansas at risk of having a complicated pregnancy receives the best possible perinatal care."

Eddie Phillips, M.D.; OB-GYN and Chief Medical Officer, Baptist Health

Dr. Eddie Phillips is a familiar face in central Arkansas, having served in important leadership roles in health care and as a physician for close to 50 years. As the chief medical officer of the Baptist Health system, which includes 11 hospitals and more than 250 points of access across Arkansas, Dr. Phillips was part of the leadership team that guided the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic and partnered with state government to lead the response to community needs during this crisis.

Prior to becoming Baptist Health's chief medical officer in 2013, Dr. Phillips touched many lives as a successful physician in private practice for 33 years. With a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Phillips helped countless mothers deliver healthy babies into the world over more than three decades.

A Little Rock native, Dr. Phillips earned his medical degree and completed his residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Prior to that, he received a great education in Little Rock public schools. Dr. Phillips is the former chairman of the Arkansas section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and continues his membership in that organization today.

Moderator: Anna Beth Gorman; CEO, Women's Foundation of Arkansas

Anna Beth Gorman has committed her professional life to public service with a specialized focus on advancing the status of girls and women in our society. In her tenure with the Women's Foundation, she is leading the effort for the Foundation to be the leading equity partner in building women's economic security across the state of Arkansas. The Foundation has seen tremendous growth under her leadership while focusing on two signature initiatives, Girls of Promise and Women Empowered. In 2022, she was the Democratic Nominee for Arkansas Secretary of State. In the same year she was recognized as one of the 250 most influential leaders in Arkansas by *Arkansas Business*. She is widely recognized as a business and community leader, practitioner of economic development and is a sought-after expert on the value of including women in the economy.

Prior to her tenure with the Women's Foundation of Arkansas, she was the Chief Membership, Volunteer, Program Officer for Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, serving as an executive with the Girl Scout organization for several years. She began her career in Public Service working for the Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia, as well as a Master of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is the immediate past chairman of the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, active in Rotary Club 99, board member of Arvest Bank Little Rock, Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame, and founding board member of the Southern Capital Project.

Did You Miss General Clark's Speech on National Unity?

Retired Gen. Wesley K. Clark highlighted the critical importance of national unity during an appearance at Club 99.

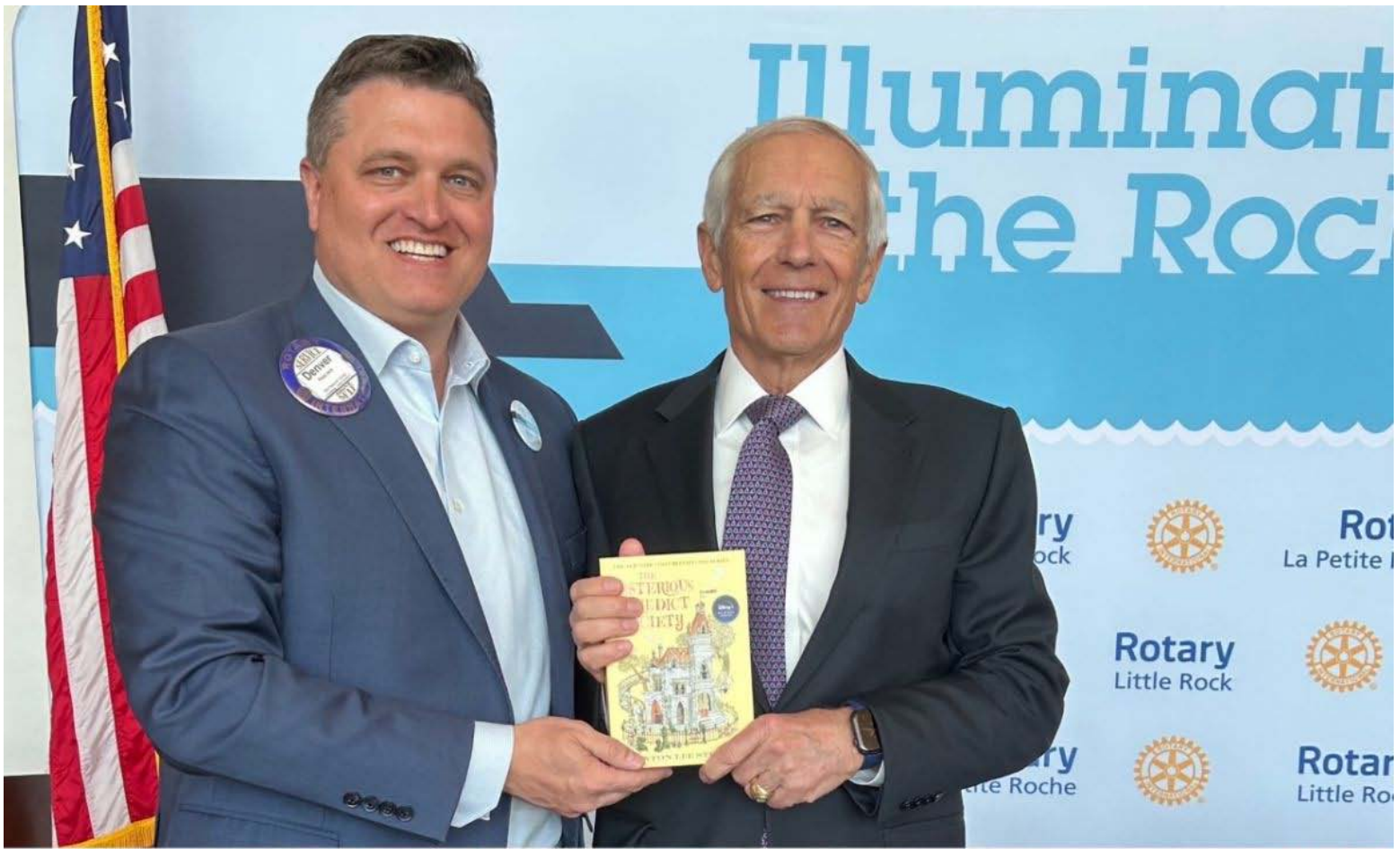
Clark, who spent four decades in the United States Army and graduated at the top of his class at West Point, said bringing the country together led him to found Renew America Together in 2019. He also highlighted the Civility Leadership Institute (CLI), founded last year to encourage community-centered relationships, regardless of political affiliation. (If you have a candidate for this year's CLI program, ask them to apply at the [link](#).)

"We are greater than what divides us," Clark said. The former presidential candidate later added, "Let's see if we can bring communities together and help make a greater impact."

For more of Clark's remarks, watch Tuesday's meeting [here](#). You can also read coverage [here](#) from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

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Introducing Angie Taylor-Lasiter!

We also welcomed our newest member, Angie Taylor-Lasiter with the 20th Century Club of Little Rock, sponsored by Elizabeth Clogston and Alfred Williams. Welcome to Club 99, Angie!

Upcoming Programs and Events

April 2023

25 Arkansas's Maternity Health Crisis: Dr. Gloria Richard-Davis, Dr. Pearn Anna McElfish, Dr. Eddie Phillips and moderator Anna Beth Gorman

May 2023

- 1 Service Project: Dunbar Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- 2 Update on Lyon College Institute of Health Sciences and OneHealth's Efforts to Locate the State's First Dental and Veterinary Graduate Schools in Little Rock (with Dr. Melissa Taverner and David Hutchison of Lyon College, and OneHealth's Merritt Dake with moderator Skip Rutherford)
- 9 Outdoor Recreation Panel with First Gentleman Bryan Sanders, Tom Walton and Mindy West with moderator Suzanne Grobmyer
- 16 Toby Enqvist, EVP and Global COO, United Airlines
- 23 Evening Social: Ottenheimer International Scholars Program 75th Anniversary Gala at AMFA (No Noon Meeting!)
- 30 Jonathan Martin, POLITICO

June 2023

- 2 Service Project: Dunbar Project Locker Service Day
- 6 La Petite Roche Global Service Awards

13 Ross DeVol, Heartland Forward
20 Northwest Arkansas Council Program with Nelson Peacock and Marshall Saviers
27 President Peacock Farewell / Transition to President-Elect Ghidotti

Zoom Login for April 25, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82204805180?pwd=eFVyY3UwclhETGRtVTFUMkVWFdiQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 0480 5180

Passcode: 569053

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+1 689 278 1000 US

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82204805180?pwd=eFVyY3UwclhETGRtVTFUMkVWFdiQT09>

2022-2023 Club Leadership



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