

Illuminate the Rock



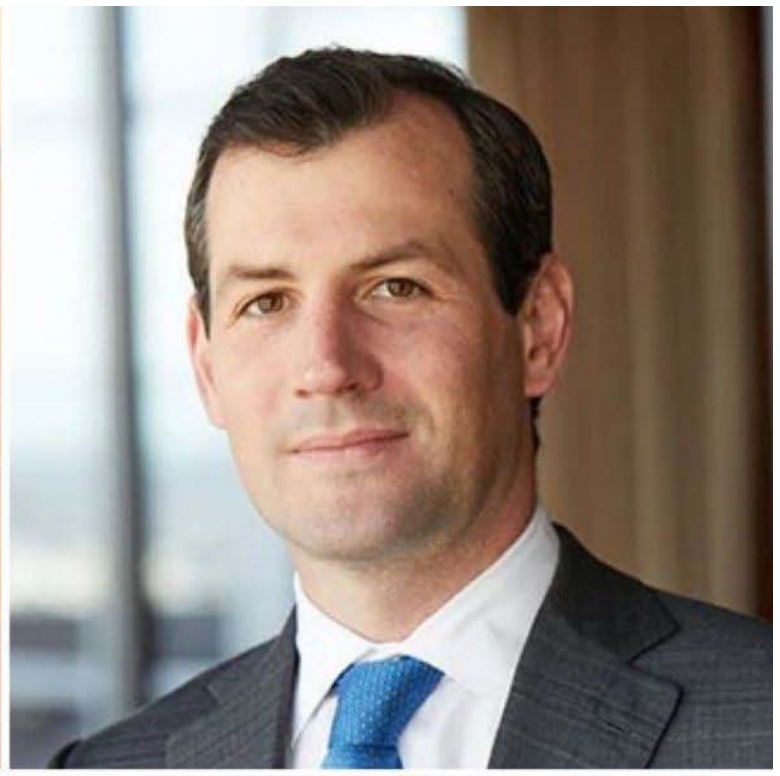
Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

About The Program: Next-Generation Arkansas Family Leaders: Annemarie Dillard Jazic, John Stephens and Steuart Walton with moderator Eliza Hussman Gaines

The names Dillard, Stephens and Walton have been synonymous with setting the business, philanthropic and quality of life standards in Arkansas for decades.

Those three prominent Arkansas families — and others — are beginning to transition to third-generation family leaders who will set the course of the state for decades to come. Next week's panel will feature emerging leaders with familiar last names, including Dillard's vice president of ecommerce and digital marketing Annemarie Dillard Jazic, Stephens vice president and member of the mergers and acquisitions group John Stephens and Runway Group co-founder Steuart L. Walton.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette publisher Eliza Hussman Gaines, next in line of a prominent state media family, will moderate the discussion.



Moderator Eliza Hussman Gaines

Eliza Hussman Gaines, a Little Rock native, is the fourth generation of her family to be in the newspaper industry. She is the publisher of eleven daily and eight weekly newspapers in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee.

Eliza attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned her B.A. in English and later her M.A. in Mass Communication, where her focus was business and media.

Eliza is on the boards of the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media Foundation, the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, the CHI St. Vincent Foundation and the Gladney Center for Adoption.

Annemarie Dillard Jazic

Annemarie Dillard Jazic is the Vice President of Ecommerce and Digital Marketing for Dillard's and a third-generation Arkansas-based retail executive. She has over two decades of retail experience with a breadth of expertise ranging from visual merchandising, buying, trend direction, procurement, marketing, and e-commerce. Annemarie has held board positions on technology startups, Sapho (acquired by Citrix), Venku, and Bleav and is an active angel investor for several startup companies.

Annemarie graduated from Pulaski Academy and has a bachelor's degree from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. She graduated cum laude and was awarded the Marsha Israel award for most outstanding student in the Lloyd Greif School of Entrepreneurship.

With a long philanthropic background, Annemarie was president of the California Gamma Chapter of Pi Beta Phi, a member of the board of advisors for USC's Marshall Partners and board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters while in Los Angeles. In Arkansas, Annemarie has served on the boards of UAMS Winthrop P Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Arkansas State Fair, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and was a committee member for Governor Asa Hutchinson's Economic Recovery Task Force during the Covid-19 crisis.

John Stephens

John Stephens is a senior vice president and member of the mergers and acquisitions group for Stephens Inc.

Previously, Stephens was an associate director of Stephens Europe. Prior to serving in Europe, he was part of the Stephens Inc. consumer team based in New York where he joined in 2013.

During his time with the consumer team, Stephens provided corporate finance and advisory services to clients in the food & agribusiness, consumer products, retail and apparel sectors.

He began his career as an equity analyst for Stephens Investment Management Group based in Houston, TX. As an analyst, he assisted four portfolio managers across all industry sectors in their research of small and mid-cap domestic growth equities.

In 2010, Mr. Stephens graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in U.S. History. In May 2017, he received his MBA from Columbia Business School.

Steuart Walton

Steuart L. Walton is the co-founder of Runway Group, a holding company that invests in real estate, hospitality and other businesses in Northwest Arkansas. He is the founder and chairman of Game Composites, LLC., a company that designs and builds small composite aircraft.

Steuart serves on the board of directors of Walmart, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. In 2020, Steuart was appointed Chairman of the Arkansas Economic Recovery Task Force to lead the re-opening of businesses in the wake of the state's COVID-19 crisis response.

He previously worked in London for Allen & Overy, LLP, and Walmart's international division, focusing on mergers and acquisitions. Steuart holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Born in Bentonville, Steuart's philanthropic efforts support his hometown and state.

Did You Miss The Growth of America's Steel Country: Mississippi County, Arkansas?

Northeast Arkansas' booming steel industry is creating employment and housing opportunities unseen in the rest of the state.

Economic developers in Mississippi County, which includes Blytheville and Osceola, touted the industry and what it means for the state on Tuesday as part of a panel discussion featuring Big River Steel Works COO Dan Brown, Great River Economic Development Foundation President Clif Chitwood, Primetals Regional Director Michael Jacques and Lexicon President and CEO Patrick Schueck. Moderating the discussion was Mississippi County Regional Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Liz Smith.

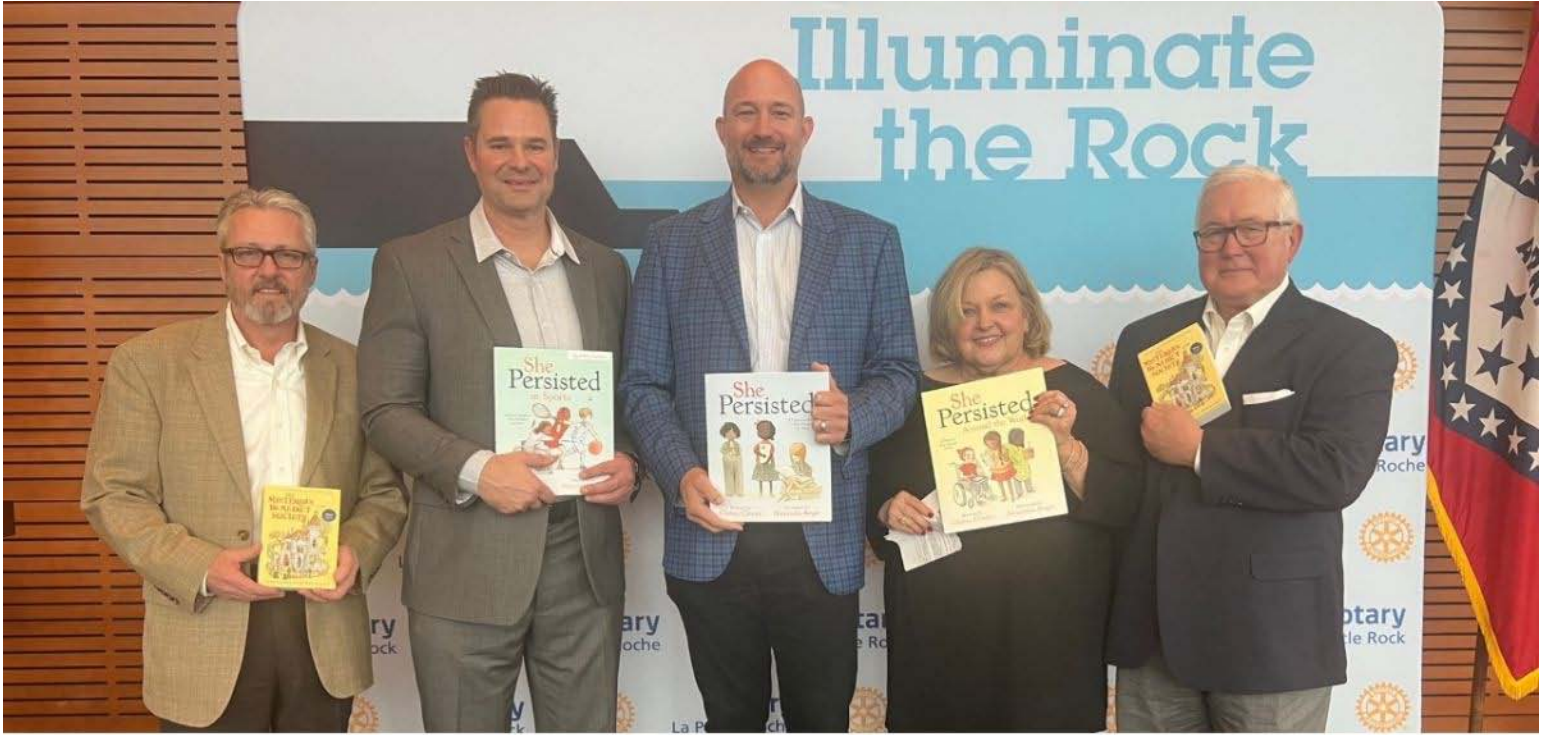
Chitwood noted that graduates of the Steel Tech program at Arkansas Northeastern College often earn higher starting salaries than their peers at UAMS, the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University. Additionally, local economic developers are assisting with home purchases and related taxes for new housing construction in the region. He said that more new houses were started last year in Osceola than in the previous 15 years.

Brown said that steel industry jobs have become highly technological and are some of the cleanest and most environmentally-friendly manufacturing work available. The mills create steel from recycled products, including cars and home appliances.

Schueck and Jacques noted that the workforce's quality in Northeast Arkansas has made it attractive to steel investment. Nucor invested in the area in the 1980s and Big River Steel/U.S. Steel are poised for the most significant economic development project in the state's history when a second Big River Steel plan is brought online in July 2024.

In addition to steel mills, jobs are being created in the area by steel-related vendors and manufacturers who use steel. Officials are hopeful the high wages and assistance with home construction will lead to a population resurgence in the area. Watch the entire program [here](#).





Introducing Chad Cumming!

We also welcomed our newest member, Chad Cumming of the law firm Gill Ragon Owen, sponsored by Molly McNulty. Welcome to Club 99, Chad!

Upcoming Programs and Events

February

- 21 Next-Generation Arkansas Family Leaders: Annemarie Dillard Jazic, John Stephens and Steuart Walton with moderator Eliza Gaines
- 28 Every Child Arkansas Launch

March

- 3 SOCIAL: Club 99 Day at the Races (Oaklawn Jockey Club)
- 7 Arkansas Commerce Secretary Hugh McDonald with Jay Chesshir
- 14 Business and Professional Leader of the Year Award & College Scholarships Program
- 21 Earle Mayor Jaylen Smith with Little Rock Mayor Frank D. Scott, Jr.
- 28 Little Rock Police Awards

April

- 4 Heartland Forward's Ross DeVol
- 11 SOCIAL: Arkansas Travelers Opening Night Reception (NO NOON MEETING)

Zoom Login for February 21, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88175651780?pwd=RzV3VEdYQVBJaFpVaXdfNmVhVaEtPUT09>

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/khnEw2WnF>

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