

Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Jean Block, CEO, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority

Not the Sewer Utility of the Past: Transforming LRWRA

Join us as fellow Club 99er Jean Block, the Chief Executive Officer of the Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (and its first woman CEO), provides an update on the conclusion of a 20-year Consent Administrative Order, the utility's integral role in fostering economic development in the City of Little Rock, its compelling economic and community impact over the past two decades, and what lies ahead. A native of California and licensed attorney, Jean took the helm as CEO in 2023 and is already making an impact for the good of our city.



Jean Block is the Chief Executive Officer of Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (LRWRA).

She was named CEO in August 2023 and is the 6th CEO in the utility's history and the first woman to serve in this role.

Jean is a licensed attorney and practiced law for 23 years prior to becoming CEO. Her last role was Chief Legal Officer at Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority. She has also served as Chief Legal Counsel of the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, and as an Assistant Attorney General for nearly 8 years.

Jean is originally from Mill Valley, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law.

She and her husband, Rodney, and their cat CiCi, live in the SOMA neighborhood of downtown Little Rock.

Congratulations RY 2026-2027 Officers and Directors

Elected at the Club's Annual Meeting, Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Congratulations and thank you for serving:

President Nominee (elevates to President in 2027-2028): Lena Hayes

Secretary: Kathleen Lawson

Treasurer Elect (elevates to Treasurer in 2026-2027): Juli Brandenberger

Sergeant-at-Arms: Amy Meins

Directors 3 year term beginning July 1, 2025 (1st of 3 year term):

Chris Mangum
Shannon Heard
Dan Parker

To fill the director term of Juli Brandenberger (2nd of 3 year term) :
Rajesh Chokhani

Previously elected and thank you for continuing to serve:
President: Mitch Bettis
President elect: Molly McNulty
Immediate Past President: Jason Chacko
Treasurer: Greg McCarroll

2nd of 3 year term:
John Monroe
Becky Finney

3rd of 3 year term:
Viji Kuruvilla
Wendy Wood
Nate Coulter

Zoom Login: 01.14.25

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82597051460?pwd=mox1PDaLOWjLLkEgiVIAeWn51gjSDx.1>

Meeting ID: 825 9705 1460
Passcode: 121641

Special Events and Meetings

New Member Orientations

Chair: Melissa Hendricks
Time: 12 Noon - 1 PM - Lunch Provided
Location: Rotary Office, 425 W. Capitol Ave. (Simmons Tower), Suite 735
Dates:
Monday, January 27, 2025
Monday, April 28, 2025

Affinity Group: Club 99 Book Club January 2025

Hosts: Natalie Ghidotti and Juli Brandenberger
Chair: Sarah Bennings
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025
Time: 12 Noon – 1 PM - Lunch Provided by Juli Brandenberger and Community Bakery
Location: The Nest, 112 W Daisy Gatson Bates Dr, Little Rock
Book: 'Never Play It Safe', by Chase Jarvis

March 2025

Host: Steve Straessle

May 2025

Host: Jamie Griffin

July 2025

Host: Kristina Bolhouse

Affinity Group: Women of Rotary

Chair: Kim Kirkman
Time: 8:15 AM
Via Zoom
Dates & Topics:
Friday, January 31, 2025, Speaking Well
Friday, February 28, 2025, Softer Side of Leadership
March, 28, 2025, Enneagram
April, 25, 2025, Designing Your Life
May, 30, 2025, Wrap up: Life to the Fullest

Service Opportunity:

Arkansas Food Bank Friends & Family Night, 4301 West 65th Street, Little Rock
Tue, Jan 21, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Registration directly with the Food Bank (Club 99 Service Chair Dan Parker has reserved 10 spots for Club 99 volunteers)

Please follow these instructions to register online for your reserved event(s):

1. Visit the Arkansas Foodbank event registration page: <https://cerv.is/0334rotarylr> (This link will only display the events specifically reserved for your group).
2. Select your desired event and follow the on-screen instructions to access the CERVIS registration system. If this is your first time using the CERVIS online registration system, you will be prompted to create a Volunteer Profile.

Event Reservation Code: rotarylr

Bring the family to show them the value of helping others in our community at our monthly Friends & Family Night event. Families and Friends (Individuals and Groups) are invited to volunteer in our Volunteer Center, where donated food products are sorted, inspected and repacked for distribution to a network of agency partners in our 33-county service area. Typical volunteer projects include preparing backpack kits for children in schools, making boxes filled with senior-friendly food. Sorting, weighing, bagging, and boxing

donated food items such as produce, breads, canned goods, packaged foods, and drinks.

Volunteers should be able to stand for extended periods of time and lift 30-40 pounds. Volunteers must be at least eight (8) years of age to work in our warehouse. Volunteers 8-15 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers 16-18 years old do not require an adult to accompany them to volunteer in our warehouse.

Additional Information:

Please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your event. To ensure a speedy sign-in process, please sign in using the mobile sign-in link above.

Dress Code: Close-toed shoes are required at all times in the Volunteer Operations Center. More details on the AR Foodbank dress code can be found in [Volunteer Handbook](#).

Waiver Forms: Volunteers who register individually complete consent forms upon account creation. For groups who are not registered individually, Volunteer Consent and Release Forms must be signed and turned into prior to the beginning of each volunteer shift.

Please click link to access the waiver form for adults [Adult Consent & Release Form](#).

Please click this link to access the youth waiver form [Youth Consent & Release Form](#).

Upcoming Programs

January 2025

January 14: Jean Block, CEO, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority

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January 21: Michael Fothergill, Executive & Artistic Director; Dr. Ann Patel, President, Ballet Arkansas

Ballet Arkansas is kicking off its 2025 season. Join Michael Fothergill, Executive & Artistic Director, and Dr. Ann Patel, President of the Board, as they discuss their vision for Ballet Arkansas and the upcoming season with moderator and Club 99er, Debbie Davis.

January 28: Mark Bremer, VP, Industrial Programs, Dassault Falcon Jet

Dassault Falcon's facility in Little Rock finishes and maintains Falcon private jets, among the finest private aircraft in the world. Workers there work with fine leather and wood cabinetry to finish out the interiors of the planes, which arrive as unfinished "green" aircraft from France. The one-million-square-foot facility, Dassault's largest facility in the world, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in June and recently announced a \$100 million expansion. Join us as Mark Bremer, Vice President of Industrial Programs for Dassault Falcon, discusses the facility's history in Arkansas and its current expansion, already underway.

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