

Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

**Mark Bremer, VP, Industrial Programs, Dassault Falcon Jet
Produced by Art Squire and Chris Mangum**

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.



Mark Bremer is a native of Northern Illinois, but has been a proud Arkansan since moving here with his wife in 1986. Mark initially came to Arkansas via the US Air Force when he was assigned to the Little Rock AFB. He is a proud husband, father and grandfather.

Mark is Vice President, Industrial Operations for Dassault Falcon Jet in Little Rock, where Falcon aircraft are completed. There have been 2,600 Falcons delivered to over 90 countries around the world and most of them outside of the Little Rock facility.

He is an executive level leader with nearly 40 years in the aerospace industry in a variety of roles including operations, program management, manufacturing, avionics, flight test, and maintenance in both the production and the service of corporate, airline, and military aircraft.

Mark has been President of the Arkansas Aerospace and Defense Alliance for more than four years. The alliance is an industry group providing a voice for aerospace and defense companies operating in Arkansas.

Mark is currently an honorary commander for the 314th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the Little Rock AFB.

He has also served on the Little Rock Workforce Development board for several years.

Mark is a cancer survivor and when he beat cancer he rode his motorcycle to the Arctic Ocean and jumped in to celebrate. Since then, he gives back to those who helped him on his journey and often speaks and supports others who are on their cancer journey.

Zoom Login: 01.28.25

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544976177?pwd=OkFgLxX0wA3u8W7tQX7FfqhltsJAO9.1>

Meeting ID: 845 4497 6177

Passcode: 309927

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,84544976177#,,,,*309927# US

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Missed Last Week?

Thank you to Ballet Arkansas' Executive & Artistic Director, **Michael Fothergill** and Board President, **Dr. Ann Patel**, who discussed the upcoming season and more, produced and moderated by **Debbie Davis**. In case you missed last week's meeting, check out the recording posted on the Club's YouTube channel: [RCLR Meeting 1.21.25](#) Special thank you to **Past President Greg Hatcher** for protecting us from the cold by providing a van and driver to give rides to/from the parking lot to the Clinton Center!



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

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 Opportunities: Thank you to the 99ers who worked on our most recent (and coldest) service project at the Arkansas Food Bank on January 21! **President-Elect Mitch Bettis** and daughters **Addyson** and **Ellison**; **Robert** and wife **Tabitha Delaney**; **Service Chair Dan** and wife **Gigi Parker**; **Becky Finney**, **Nikki Smith**, **Cindy VanVeckhoven** and **Gene Levy**.



Look for more information closer to dates, but mark your calendars for additional service opps:

March 8, 2025, Keep Little Rock Beautiful, City Wide Clean Up Day, Coordinator Capi Peck

April 5, 2025, Habitat for Humanity Build, Coordinator, Rob Delaney

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

April/May, TBA, Dunbar Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Coordinator Dan Parker

May, TBA, Dunbar Celebration Assembl, Coordinator, Dan Parker

Welcome, New and Returning Members

Introduced January 7, 14 and 21:

Interested in sponsoring someone for membership? Contact Membership Chair Ross Burnett, ross.burnett@ml.com.



Jana Wolff, Deputy Director of Advancement & Strategy, Arkansas Museum of Fine Art, AMFA, sponsored by Victoria Ramirez.



Wythe Walker, Director of Development, Arkansas Times, returning member.



Bill Benton, Physician, Baptist Health Neonatal Associates, sponsored by Dan Parker.

Upcoming Programs

January 28: Mark Bremer, VP, Industrial Programs, Dassault Falcon Jet produced by Art Squire and Chris Mangum 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.

February 4: Arlo Washington (aka The Barber of Little Rock)
produced by Chris Mangum

Washington recently rose to fame after a documentary featuring him was nominated for an Academy Award in 2024. But the work featured in the documentary has been his life's work for three decades; a barber who forms a non-profit bank to loan money to the unbanked and underbanked in an effort to overcome the racial wealth gap in his community.

February 11: Alden McDonald, Liberty Bank and Trust Company
produced and moderated by Chris Mangum

In 1972, Alden McDonald started Liberty Bank and Trust Company to address "redlining" in New Orleans, the practice by larger banks of avoiding making loans in black communities. The bank was chartered with a focus on service, integrity and a sincere interest in community and business development. Over five decades later, Liberty Bank and Trust has over \$1 billion in assets and branches in 11 states, making it the largest black or African American owned financial institution in the United States. Todd McDonald, Alden's son, has now moved into the leadership role at the bank and will share his vision for the bank as he continues its growth strategy.

February 18: Kathy Balkman and Debby Meece, Fisher House Update

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. As of November 2024, there were 99 Fisher Houses in the US, Germany and the UK, with an additional house currently being built near the VA Hospital in Little Rock. In 2023, Fisher Houses served 33,000 families worldwide and awarded \$2.3M in scholarships to military families. Since its founding in 1990, Fisher Houses has served over 500,000 families. President Kathy Balkman and Vice President Debby Meece will share an update on their progress building the new Fisher House in Little Rock to serve our local veterans' community.

February 25: Robert Moore and Carolyn Blissett: John Harold Johnson Museum, Arkansas City, Arkansas
produced and moderated by Chris Mangum

John Harold Johnson was born in Arkansas City, Arkansas in 1918 and spent much of his childhood there before moving to Chicago in 1933 as part of the Great Migration of African Americans out of the South. In Chicago, he encountered something he never knew existed - middle-class blacks. His high school classmates at Dusable High included Redd Foxx and Nat King Cole. He became determined to make something of himself. In 1942, he started Johnson Publishing Co with \$500 his mother borrowed using her furniture as collateral. From there, Johnson went on to launch Ebony magazine and later Jet magazine, along with various other businesses. One of Johnson's most notable issues of Jet was the September 15, 1955, issue in which he published a picture of Chicago-youth [Emmett Till](#)'s mutilated body after it had arrived in Chicago from Mississippi. Johnson would go on to become the first black man on the Forbes 400 list in 1982 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton in 1996. He even served on the board of Dillards and First Commercial Bank here in Arkansas. In 2019, the Arkansas Legislature created John H. Johnson Day to pay tribute to his legacy and to help support a museum (his childhood home) named in his honor in Arkansas City. The Friends of the John H. Johnson Museum suggested November 1 as the date for the holiday because that was the date the first issue of Ebony was published. Robert Moore and Carolyn Blissett share

more about this great man's accomplishments and the museum honoring his birthplace.

Club Leaders



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[Molly McNulty](#)
President-Nominee



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iPast President



[Drew Harper](#)
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