



Rotary  
Little Rock



## Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

### Q&A conversation with CEO Benjamin Johnson, U.S. Marshals Museum

Following the heels of its early July opening, we will hear from U.S. Marshals Museum CEO Benjamin Johnson on the new Fort Smith museum and what's in store for visitors. Museum of Discovery CEO and Club 99er Kelley Bass will moderate a discussion with Ben, who will detail the 16-year effort it took to open the museum and visitor reactions from the first few weeks.

In January 2007, Fort Smith was selected as the future home of the U.S. Marshals Museum to honor the legacy of the institution's rich history as the enforcement arm of the federal courts. After 16 years of planning, fundraising and construction, the museum welcomed its first visitors on July 1.



**Benjamin Johnson**

Over his 20-year museum career, Ben has served in nearly every capacity within the museum industry. He began his career in a curatorial role with the Strategic Air Command Museum in Ashland, Neb., and has since held executive leadership roles in Oregon, New York, Iowa and Arkansas.

Johnson comes to the USMM from the Putnam Museum and Science Center in Davenport, Iowa, where he was Vice President of Museum Experiences and was responsible for the museum's exhibits, educational programming and a curatorial department caring for more than 500,000 individual objects. Prior to Putnam, Johnson was the Executive Director of the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, N.Y.

**State of the State Q&A with Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders**

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders joined us in a moderated Q&A discussion with Rotarian Chris Bahn last week. The Governor addressed a variety of topics, including the LEARNS Act, a renewed focus on education, workforce development and Arkansas' outdoor tourism as a means to economic development. With Club 99's focus on literacy and reading by the third grade, Chris asked Gov. Sanders to address her vision for every student in Arkansas to achieve this benchmark. Our Literacy Lab initiative with the Little Rock School District is a perfect example of businesses and others getting directly involved with helping our students pass this

important milestone.







If you missed this week's meeting, be sure to check out the link to the full meeting [here](#).

### Who's Having Fun This Week?

Each week we will feature a member and what they do for fun! Check out [Kathleen Lawson](#) and her love of baking and travel!

### Intern Day at Club 99

Join us at our weekly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 1 as we host an outstanding panel of businesses - including Stephens Inc., Rose Law Firm and Stone Ward - on making internship programs a win-win for both employers and interns. This is a GREAT opportunity for you to bring your summer intern along with you to see what the best Rotary Club in the world is all about! Let's fill the room with young people who could be future Rotarians and community leaders!

### Kicking Off a Great School Year with Dunbar Magnet Middle School

Help us ensure the students at Dunbar Middle get off to a great start this year!

#### Monday, Aug. 7, 3-5 p.m., Dunbar Magnet

We need volunteers to help stuff 400 backpacks full of supplies. In partnership with Eat My Catfish - which is putting up collection boxes at all of their Central Arkansas locations - we are gathering supplies to fill a backpack for each student at Dunbar! We need all hands on deck to fill these packs full of goodies!

#### Thursday, Aug. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Dunbar Magnet

We are hosting a Back-to-School Bash to welcome all the Dunbar students and families back to a new school year. We'll hand out the backpacks, plus serve dinner that night to families and faculty. Help us support our Dunbar community on this exciting and FUN night!

### Ottenheimer International Scholars Program

Our two students from Germany will be here before we know it! We are looking for Rotarians who are willing to house our students for a couple of nights and/or entertain them and show off all the great things about our beloved state. Robert Quack and Florian Ketterl will be here from Aug. 12 - Sept. 2, and we want to ensure they have an amazing Arkansas experience!

If you are interested in helping host our students, you can sign-up [here](#) or reach out to T. Martin Davis at [tmartind@swbell.net](mailto:tmartind@swbell.net) or Cindy VanVeckhoven at [cvanveckhoven@landmarkcpas.com](mailto:cvanveckhoven@landmarkcpas.com).

### President Ghidotti's Power of Fun Tip of the Week

After last week's reveal of this year's theme, you might be asking yourself ... what is true fun anyway?

So let's start with the fact that we use the word fun too broadly and sloppily. We sometimes even say things are fun that we really DON'T think are fun and have no intentions of ever doing again.

A CNN segment on having fun referenced these super fun things: roasting a turkey, getting more sleep, putting together a memorial altar to honor loved ones and watching a documentary about climate change! Yikes!

Or how about this similar list from Real Simple magazine that proposes if you want to have more fun, you should make snickerdoodles, get everyone some fun back-to-school notebooks and supplies and adorn your table with gourds?

No shade to you if these are True Fun moments for you, but I'm going to be a bit worried if they are! ?

TRUE FUN - according to Catherine Price, author of "The Power of Fun" - is this magical confluence of playfulness, connection and flow. It's about moments we remember — experiences that make life worth living. The emotional power of the memories it creates is proof that True Fun isn't frivolous; it's profound!

So this week, your assignment is to think through moments in your life that you had TRUE FUN. More to come next week!

## Welcome New Members

**Cherie Labat, CEO, eStem**  
*Sponsored by Denver Peacock*

**Maha Witherington, District Representative**  
*Sponsored by Molly McNulty*



## Upcoming Programs and Events

### July 2023

25 Opening of the U.S. Marshals Museum with Benjamin Johnson, CEO

### August 2023

1 Summer Internships: Making It a Win-Win for You and Them with Stephens Inc., Rose Law Firm and Stone Ward  
8 Groundbreaking of the new Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Music Center with Executive Director Christina Littlejohn and Artistic Director Geoffrey Robson  
15 Growth of Arkansas Distilleries with Matt Bell (Origami Sake), Phil Brandon (Rocktown Distillery) and Harvey Williams (Delta Dirt Distillery)  
22 Artificial Intelligence in Education with Principal Nancy Rousseau, Central High School, and Head of School Steve Straessle, Catholic High School for Boys  
29 Ottenheimer International Scholars Program Participant Panel

## Zoom Login for July 25, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82135616596?pwd=dGZaNEhM242a3UwQkhjUXJaZ2J2UT09>

Meeting ID: 821 3561 6596

Passcode: 908489

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- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
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## **2023-2024 Club Leadership**





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