

Illuminate the Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

About the Program: President Denver Peacock's Farewell Program & Transition to President-Elect Natalie Ghidotti

Join us Tuesday as we celebrate President Denver Peacock's farewell program and pass the gavel to President-Elect Natalie Ghidotti. We will have a blast roasting President Peacock on a great year "Illuminating the Rock." President Peacock will recap the year with a highlight on all our club's successes, including our robust new membership streak (will we complete our goal of introducing a new member at every meeting this year?), our engaging and informative 2022-23 Speaker Series, and our fun socials and impactful service projects. We will present our book donation to the Little Rock School District and hear from two of our featured authors: Crystal C. Mercer and Tracy Peterson. We'll also be making a few surprise announcements! This is one farewell program that you won't want to miss. As a bonus, come early to watch a slideshow recapping our year of programs, socials and service projects, accompanied by Terry Rasco on the piano. As always, we will see you Tuesday at the Clinton Center.

Rotary
La Petite Roche



Illuminate the Rock



Did You Miss The Northwest Arkansas Council's Nelson Peacock & Marshall Saviers?



Central Arkansas has all the ingredients needed for sustained regional growth, representatives of the Northwest Arkansas Council told Rotary Club of Little Rock members on Tuesday.

Northwest Arkansas Council president and CEO Nelson Peacock and council presiding chair Marshall Saviers were part of a facilitated conversation about how their region's growth could be replicated in other parts of the state.

Central Arkansas has nearly half of the state's top 10 largest cities, multiple four-year colleges and universities, a robust healthcare system and major national and international employers - all key factors in harnessing consistent and robust regional growth, Peacock and Saviers said.

"The foundation's here, but then you've got to put it into action," Saviers said.

The key is having business leaders set the priorities, Peacock said. That approach will help keep jealousy at bay from municipal government and local chamber leaders.

"It will be hard for city council members or mayors in any of these communities to say no to something if everyone stands together in a business community that stands together and says, 'this is what it takes to grow our region, to make it a better place,'" Peacock said.

Peacock noted that prior to a "Life Works Here" marketing effort, Northwest Arkansas cities had less than half the name recognition of Little Rock among young workers. Little Rock polled at 75 percent with its neighbors to the northwest only being recognized by 30 percent.

"Regionalism isn't easy," Peacock said, noting Northwest Arkansas has had success with the business leaders funding independent studies to pinpoint areas of greatest need. It's a model that has worked well for Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville, Siloam Springs and other towns in the region.

Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, J.B. Hunt and Simmons Food have been major employers in the region for decades, and in the early 1990s, Sam Walton, Don Tyson, J.B. Hunt and Mark Simmons joined together to create the council. Since its founding, the council has been a driving force in economic development, infrastructure and quality of

life initiatives.

Currently, the Northwest Arkansas Council is focused on diversity and inclusion, health care and affordable housing. Major wins for the council include establishing a regional airport; securing federal funding for Interstate 49 from Alma north through Fayetteville, Bentonville and other cities in the region; and building the Bella Vista bypass.

A central Arkansas effort cannot afford to be only Little Rock-centric, Peacock said.

"Other towns have to believe that if they aren't at the table, then they're gonna miss out," Peacock said, "Inclusion keeps them coming back."

To learn more about the program, click the links for coverage in [Arkansas Business](#) and [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#). You can also view the full video at this [link](#).





Welcome to Club 99!

We were thrilled to welcome four new members on Tuesday with Ross Burnett of Merrill Lynch, sponsored by Beth Barnes; Adriene Collins of Lovesac, sponsored by Susan Atrui; Rep. Denise Ennett of the Arkansas Legislature, sponsored by Patricia Blick; and Jessica Scott of UA-Little Rock, sponsored by Alfred Williams! Welcome to Club 99!

Tornado Relief Donors Recognized

Little Rock Tornado Relief Task Force Co-Chairs Jason Chacko and Jeff Hildebrand honored and recognized those that have contributed to the Club 99 Little Rock Tornado Relief Task Force fund. All donors over a \$1,000 donation were recognized with our Sid Brooks Award, named after club founder Sid Brooks, who served as the club's first president in 1914 and then club secretary for 38 years. The award was established for supporters of the Club 99 Foundation to recognize worthy individuals in our community.



A special thank you to all our donors, Sid Brooks Award recipients and task force members!

Club 99 Little Rock Tornado Task Force Donors and Sid Brooks Award Recipients - Sid Brooks' honorees in bold

- Kelley Bass
- Leigh Ann Biernat
- Bob Birch
- Kristina Bolhouse, in honor of Barbara Bolhouse**
- Jason Chacko
- Rajesh Chokhani
- Jim Deer
- Natalie Ghidotti
- Kenny Gibbs in honor of Mike Marquez**
- Greg Hatcher
- Jeff Hildebrand
- Lenka Horakova in honor of Sam Strauss, Jr.**
- Randy Hyde and members of Second Presbyterian Church**
- Susan Johnson
- Hank Kelley
- Chris Mangum
- Beth Mason
- Andrew Meadors
- Jim Miles
- Ed Owens

Sue Owens

Dan Parker

Denver Peacock, in honor of Nelson Peacock and in memory of their parents, Ann and Joe N. Peacock

Terry Rasco

Vanessa Russell

Angela Shirey

Sarah Spencer

Wendy Wood

Club 99 Little Rock Tornado Relief Task Force Co-Chairs and Members

Co-Chairs Jason Chacko and Jeff Hildebrand

Members Rajesh Chokhani, Elizabeth Clogston, Natalie Ghidotti, Tanya James, Hank Kelley, Beth Mason, Molly McNulty, Ed Owens, Sue Owens, Dan Parker, Denver Peacock, Linda Vergon and Wendy Wood.

Upcoming Programs and Events

June 2023

27 President Peacock Farewell / Transition to President-Elect Natalie Ghidotti

Zoom Login for June 27, 2023

Topic: RC Weekly Meeting

Time: Jun 27, 2023 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87161598918?pwd=YURDWVdDSFFHamJrRDdHN2hyNndXQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 [6159 8918](#)

Passcode: 600804

One tap mobile

[+13017158592](tel:+13017158592),87161598918#,,,,*600804# US (Washington DC)

[+13052241968](tel:+13052241968),87161598918#,,,,*600804# US

Dial by your location

• [+1 301 715 8592](tel:+13017158592) US (Washington DC)

• [+1 305 224 1968](tel:+13052241968) US

• [+1 309 205 3325](tel:+13092053325) US

• [+1 312 626 6799](tel:+13126266799) US (Chicago)

• [+1 646 931 3860](tel:+16469313860) US

• [+1 929 436 2866](tel:+19294362866) US (New York)

• [+1 346 248 7799](tel:+13462487799) US (Houston)

• [+1 360 209 5623](tel:+13602095623) US

• [+1 386 347 5053](tel:+13863475053) US

• [+1 507 473 4847](tel:+15074734847) US

• [+1 564 217 2000](tel:+15642172000) US

• [+1 669 444 9171](tel:+16694449171) US

• [+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833) US (San Jose)

• [+1 689 278 1000](tel:+16892781000) US

• [+1 719 359 4580](tel:+17193594580) US

• [+1 253 205 0468](tel:+12532050468) US

• [+1 253 215 8782](tel:+12532158782) US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 871 [6159 8918](#)

Passcode: 600804

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87161598918>

2022-2023 Club Leadership



President Denver Peacock
The Peacock Group



President Elect Natalie Ghidotti
Ghidotti Communications



President Nominee Jason Chacko
The Chacko Group at Morgan Stanley



Past President Kristina Bolhouse
Arkansas Financial Group, Inc.



Treasurer Leigh Ann Biernat
Stephens Public Finance



Treasurer Elect Don Cole
Methodist Family Health



Secretary Tammie Davis
BancorpSouth



Sergeant At Arms Greg McCarroll
Centennial Bank



Foundation Chair Bill Booker



Mitch Bettis
Arkansas Business Publishing Group



Eilon Cockrill



T. Martin Davis
Davis Law Firm



Lena Hayes
Baptist Health Foundation



Wanda Hoover
Bowen Law School



Tanya James
Arvest Bank



Kevin Newton
CBM Construction



Jessie Wilson
Dale Carnegie Training



Kenny Gibbs
Assistant District Governor