

Illuminate the Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, May 9, 2023

About the Program: Natural State Advisory Council Panel with First Gentleman Bryan Sanders, Tom Walton, Mindy West and Suzanne Grobmyer

Outdoor recreation opportunities are responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic impact for the state of Arkansas. Further leaning into the state's strength as an outdoor destination is the focus of the Natural State Advisory Council, established earlier this year by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Join us Tuesday as members of the Natural State Advisory Council, including Chairman Bryan Sanders will be part of a panel discussion centered on outdoor recreation in Arkansas. First Gentleman Sanders will be joined on the panel by Tom Walton, co-founder of the Runway Group, and Mindy West, CFO of Murphy USA. Suzanne Grobmyer, chief of staff of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, will serve as moderator. Grobmyer, Walton and West are among 17 appointees to the council.

Gov. Sanders established the Natural State Advisory Council to "promote tourism and grow our outdoor economy" and share "with the world what we already know: Arkansas is God's Country." For more on the council, click [here](#).



About the Panelists:

FIRST GENTLEMAN BRYAN SANDERS

Arkansas First Gentleman Bryan Sanders is a political strategist who has done polling and television advertising for Republican governors, senators, and presidential campaigns. He has distinguished himself as a strategist for some of the most unexpected Republican victories in the country over the last few decades and was named a "Rising Star in American Politics" by Campaigns and Elections magazine.

A native of Kansas City, Bryan is a graduate of Colby College in Waterville, Maine, where he majored in Government. Bryan met his wife, the 47th Governor of Arkansas, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, working on her father, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee's, presidential campaign in Iowa in 2007, followed her to Little Rock, and has been a proud Arkansan ever since.

Bryan and the Governor have three children, Scarlett, Huck, and George, and a Golden Retriever, Traveler. Bryan enjoys mountain biking and spending time outdoors with his family in the Natural State.

TOM WALTON

Tom Walton is the co-founder of Runway Group, a Bentonville, Arkansas-based holding company. Committed to making Arkansas the best place to live, Runway investments include real estate, outdoor initiatives, hospitality, and aviation. He is also Chairman of the Walton Family Foundation Home Region Program.

Born and raised in Bentonville, Tom spends his time giving back through regional investments and philanthropy. Through Runway, personal support, and the Walton Family Foundation's Home Region Program, Tom plays an important role in revitalizing Northwest Arkansas downtown areas with a desire to create collaborative spaces for the region's growing population. Tom is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and resides in Bentonville with his wife Olivia and their two daughters.

MINDY WEST

Mindy West is Executive Vice President of Fuels, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Murphy USA. After working for Murphy Oil Corporation for 17 years, she joined the company in 2013 when it spun-off from Murphy Oil Corporation.

With a growing network of more than 1,700 retail stores in 27 states, the team at Murphy USA serves more than 1.6 million customers each day and ranks No. 240 on the Fortune 500 listing.

Mindy continues to expand her leadership roles while actively supporting greater Arkansas communities and interests by serving as a Director on the Board of Simmons First National Corporation, Ducks Unlimited National Board, and the Razorback Foundation Board, as well as now serving on the Natural State Advisory Council.

MODERATOR SUZANNE GROBMYER

Suzanne Grobmyer joined the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism as its chief of staff in January 2023. In addition to her role at the Department, she serves as a member of the Natural State Advisory Council.

Before joining ADPHT, Grobmyer was the founding executive director for the Arkansas Parks & Recreation Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization that works with communities and land managers across the state to innovate and create outstanding outdoor experiences. Most notably, the foundation partnered to create the Arkansas High Country Route, the development and construction of the Monument Trails at various Arkansas State Parks, and the first professionally contracted trails in the City of Little Rock at River Mountain and Two Rivers Park.

Prior to the 2017 founding of the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Foundation, Grobmyer served as the director of major gifts for CHI St. Vincent. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She is a native of Fayetteville and currently resides in Little Rock with her husband, Andrew, their daughter, Margaret, and son, Armie.

Here's to 75 Years!

Make plans to join us for the celebration of 75 years of the Ottenheimer International Scholars Program at the beautiful newly remodeled Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (AFMA). More below in the attached invitation flyer. Reservations required by May 15: [\[insert link\]](#).



ROTARY CLUB
OF LITTLE ROCK



ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK
OTTENHEIMER
International Scholars Program
1948-2023

HERE'S TO 75 YEARS!

The Rotary Club of Little Rock invites you to join us for the **Ottenheimer International Scholars Program 75th Anniversary Gala** to salute founder Gus Ottenheimer and mark three-quarters of a century of bringing the "Little Rock Plan" to life.

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

5 - 8 P.M. | Brief program
at 6:30 p.m.

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts
Cultural Living Room
501 East Ninth Street
Little Rock, Arkansas



Entertainment provided by **Rodney Block**



\$50 for regular (active) members;
\$100 for lifetime and honorary members and guests



Advance registration is required; please RSVP by May 15



Business Attire

We are very grateful to all our sponsors for making the 75th Anniversary Gala possible!

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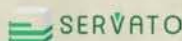
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Did You Miss Lyon College's Update On Its Downtown Little Rock Dental & Vet Graduate Schools?



Lyon College President Dr. Melissa Taverner began the conversation by explaining that both the veterinary and dental programs in Arkansas will be a new distributed model. This new model reduces the time students have in the graduate program while increasing direct clinical experiences. The accreditation process has taken over two years and 2,000 pages of documentation to complete, but in her words, it is “finally final,” being sent as she spoke. It is expected that the first classes will be seated late summer or early fall of 2025.

OneHealth CEO Merritt Dake added that there is an undersupply of programs. He estimated there are 14,000 qualified veterinary students and 6,000 dental students seeking programs. Dake discussed plans for the nearly 30-acre campus and expects to break ground in August. Referring to a slide of the campus, he explained the current Heifer International headquarters building would serve as the administrative offices of the schools. Entering into a long-term lease, Heifer's two floors will remain as its global headquarters. The existing education building will be expanded and will include space available for community events. Short-term plans include adding three new structures, one each for the veterinary and dental schools and two for parking. Future planned amenities include a new boulevard with mixed-use housing options for some of its approximately 1,000 students, faculty and staff. He imagined the needs for the surrounding area to include a hotel, retail spaces and a restaurant.

Moderator Skip Rutherford characterized the schools as an economic development engine for the city and one of the biggest investments in downtown since the addition of the Clinton Presidential Center.

You can watch the full program [here](#).



Welcome to Club 99, Mitsy Tharp!

Continuing an unprecedented new member introduction streak, Mitsy Tharp, of Signature Realty, was introduced on Tuesday. Trish Roberson is her sponsor. Welcome to Club 99, Mitsy!

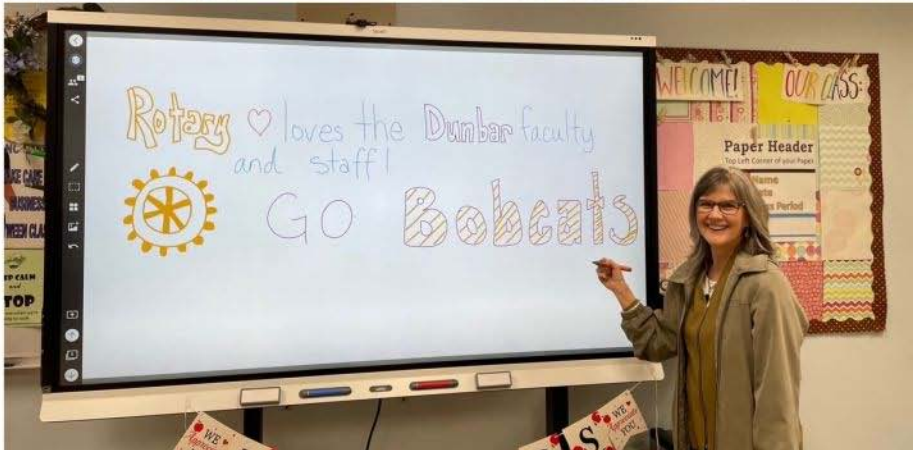
Congratulations to President Denver Peacock; Named District 6150 President of the Year for 2022-2023!

District 6150 Governor David Menz surprised President Peacock with the distinguished District 6150 President of the Year award on Tuesday. Menz commented on the amazing job Peacock and his leadership team have done so far this year. He noted the impressive weekly programs, new membership recruitment efforts and impactful service projects. Congratulations, President Peacock!

Club 99 Sponsored Breakfast at Dunbar Magnet Middle School Kicks Off Teacher Appreciation Week!

Dunbar Magnet Middle School faculty and staff dropped by the Rotary Club of Little Rock's breakfast to kick start Teacher Appreciation Week on Monday. Project committee members and Dunbar student mentors were on hand to greet the attendees with tasty treats from Julie Brandenburger's Community Bakery along with a nice cup of coffee to start the day! Past President Elizabeth Small, Patricia Blick, Pam Barnes, Vanessa Russell (not shown) and Executive Director Karen Fetzer were among the Club 99ers to attend.

Volunteers got all the feels when a faculty member commented that "Rotary has made such a difference!"



Upcoming Programs and Events

May 2023

- 9 Natural State Advisory Council Panel with First Gentleman Bryan Sanders, Tom Walton, Mindy West and moderator Suzanne Grobmyer
- 16 A Conversation with Toby Enqvist, EVP and Global COO of United Airlines, with Mike Marquez
- 23 Evening Social: Ottenheimer International Scholars Program 75th Anniversary Gala at AMFA (No Noon Meeting!) with entertainment by Rodney Block [link to register]
- 30 Arkansas's Defense Industry

June 2023

- 2 **Service Project: Dunbar Project Locker Service Day**
- 6 La Petite Roche Global Service Awards Honoring the Little Rock Nine
- 13 Ross DeVol, Heartland Forward
- 20 Northwest Arkansas Council Conversation with Nelson Peacock and Marshall Saviers
- 27 President Peacock Farewell / Transition to President-Elect Natalie Ghidotti

Zoom Login for May 9, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87085772748?pwd=c2xoUjRkQW4yODVUZEEwSmM3cFRndz09>

Meeting ID: 870 8577 2748

Passcode: 712239

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Passcode: 712239

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

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
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Kenny Gibbs
Assistant District Governor