



Rotary  
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

### Marijuana in Arkansas: Big Business, New Laws

Since winning voter approval in 2016, the medical marijuana market in Arkansas has exploded. Join us Tuesday, Sept. 12 to hear the latest on the local and federal front from local medical marijuana experts, including updates on the latest CBD and hemp regulations.



Moderator **Erika Gee** of Wright Lindsey Jennings law firm has been representing cannabis businesses since December 2016 in a broad variety of matters, including regulatory and legislative lobbying, compliance counsel and general counsel for licensed dispensaries, cultivation facilities, processors, licensed hemp growers, and processor and ancillary businesses. She leads a multi-disciplinary team of attorneys at Wright Lindsey Jennings who provide representation in tax matters, mergers and acquisitions, capital raises, employment law and other issues affecting the industry. She has been recognized as the "Best Lawyer of the Year" for Government Relations

in the 2023 edition of Best Lawyers in America and is a sought-after speaker on the legal and regulatory aspects of cannabis in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and the surrounding region, with multiple articles on the topic for Arkansas Business and appearances on Arkansas Week, Talk Business and Arkansas Public Media.

**Chip Leibovich** is a staff attorney for the Alcoholic Beverage Control overseeing day-to-day operations for cannabis facilities in Arkansas. He began work at the ABC in March 2019, about two months after the initial dispensary licenses were awarded and about three months before the first dispensaries commenced operations. He has worked extensively with the Medical Marijuana Commission and the Department of Health to assist them in their responsibilities related to medical cannabis in Arkansas. He is also a member of CANNRA, the Cannabis Regulators Association, a nonpartisan association of government officials involved in the regulation of cannabis. A graduate of Hendrix College, Chip received his law license from UALR William H. Bowen School of law. Prior to commencing work with ABC, he was a public defender in Faulkner County.

**Mark Roberts**, member and manager of Heights Apothecary & Hemp Co., is a Little Rock native who relocated to Medford, Oregon, in 2016 when he got the opportunity to help bring a commercial marijuana farm online. He served as business manager and chief audit officer for Urban Pharms for 14 months where he installed and used the BioTrack THC tracking system. The farm included marijuana grown outdoor, indoor and in greenhouses, a cloning facility, a full lab and a full kitchen. The farm employed 44 full-time employees and 40 part-time during harvests. Mark returned to Little Rock in 2017 where he consulted licensing groups, including ABC agents, and opened a CBD specialty retail store. He remains a passionate advocate for hemp and CBD, as well as cannabis in general.

**Mary Claire McLaurin** is vice president of compliance at Good Day Farm providing regulatory oversight and guidance to cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and dispensary operations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Mississippi. She previously served as regulatory counsel and legislative liaison for the Arkansas State Police, where she gained experience in professional and concealed carry licensing, administrative law, government affairs and the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. She acted as an internal advisor to the Colonel of the Arkansas State Police and division Majors, developed best practices and procedures, and represented the Division in administrative proceedings, state court, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Arkansas State Claims Commission, as well as before the Arkansas General Assembly. In 2007, Mary Claire received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She is licensed to practice law in Arkansas and Mississippi.

## **This Week at Club 99**

### **About Last Night ...**

If you missed it, you MISSED IT! But no worries, we'll do it again!





Our evening social Tuesday night at the new Wright's Barbecue was amazing! These guys are known for their brisket, and it did NOT disappoint!

Some 135 Club 99ers and guests enjoyed a sneak peek to the Wright's BBQ sensation hitting Little Rock this week. Members tasted the restaurant's famous brisket, along with ribs, pork and tons of yummy sides. Huge thanks to **Jordan Wright** and his team for hosting an exclusive night for us. Also, thank you to **Chris Shenep**, who invited Jordan to a Rotary meeting as a guest a few weeks ago and got the ball rolling to make Tuesday happen.

It was another fun Rotary social, and we can't wait to plan the next one!



**Razorback Rotarians**

Big shoutout to Club 99er **Rocky Goodman** for hosting a wonderful Club 99 tailgate this past weekend at the Arkansas Razorbacks game at War Memorial. Club 99 members stopped by to help send our Ottenheimer scholars, **Robert and Florian**, off in true Arkansas style! These guys were lucky enough to call the Hogs with **Past President Kenny Gibbs**. Now THAT'S a treat!

Thanks to **T. Martin Davis**, **Cindy Van Veckhoven** and all our many members who helped pull off another successful Ottenheimer program. It takes a lot of work to arrange three perfect Arkansas weeks for our visitors, but T. Martin, Cindy and their committee do it with grace, style and FUN!



## Special Events, Service Projects and Meetings

### Club 99 Service Opportunity: Be a Miracle League Buddy for a Day!

We have signed up to fill 20 buddy slots for the Miracle League on Saturday, Sept. 23 from noon - 2 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy our community and help a child with disabilities learn the great game of baseball. Your role is to help your player bat and run the bases and, most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Want to learn more about the joy of being a Miracle League Buddy? Click [here](#) to learn more!

Please consider signing up and joining your fellow Club 99ers in a day of FUN with our Miracle League friends!

# Upcoming Events

September 2023

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**Sept**  
**13**

***New Member Orientation***

Arkansas Business Publishing Group  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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**Sept**  
**23**

***Miracle League Buddy Day***

ML Field, Junior Deputy  
12-2 PM

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**Sept**  
**29**

***Women of Rotary Coffee Chat***

Zoom  
8 - 8:45 AM

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September 2023

12 Marijuana in Arkansas: Big Business, New Laws



















19 Paul Oakley Stovall, Tony Award-winning Actor and Former "George Washington" in Hamilton

26 Author Eli Cranor and CALS Six Bridges Book Festival

## 2023-2024 Club Leadership



### Board of Directors

- |  |  |
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|  <p><b>Natalie Ghidotti</b><br/><i>President</i><br/>natalie@ghidotti.com</p>               |  <p><b>Jason Chacko</b><br/><i>President-Elect</i><br/>jason.chacko@morganstanley.com</p> |
|  <p><b>Mitch Bettis</b><br/><i>President-Elect Nominee</i><br/>mbettis@abpg.org</p>         |  <p><b>Denver Peacock</b><br/><i>Past President</i><br/>denver@peacockgrp.com</p>         |
|  <p><b>Molly McNulty</b><br/><i>Secretary</i><br/>molly.mculty@arcourts.gov</p>             |  <p><b>Don Cole</b><br/><i>Treasurer</i><br/>dcole@methodistfamily.org</p>                |
|  <p><b>Drew Harper</b><br/><i>Treasurer-Elect</i><br/>drew.harper@ozk.com</p>               |  <p><b>Wendy Wood</b><br/><i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i><br/>paul.wendy.wood@gmail.com</p>       |
|  <p><b>Suzanne Peyton</b><br/><i>Foundation Chairman</i><br/>speyton@clintonairport.com</p> |  <p><b>Viji Kuruvilla</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>vijik@lexicon-inc.com</p>          |
|  <p><b>Lena Hayes</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>lena.hayes@baptist-health.org</p>        |  <p><b>Sue Owens</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>owenselbo@gmail.com</p>                 |
|  <p><b>Nate Coulter</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>coulter.nate@gmail.com</p>             |  <p><b>Tanya James</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>tjames@arvest.com</p>                 |
|  <p><b>Kevin Newton</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>kevinnewton@cbmconstruction.net</p>    |  <p><b>T. Martin Davis</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>tmartind@swbell.net</p>           |
|  <p><b>Jessie Wilson</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>jessie.wilson@dalecarnegie.com</p>    |  <p><b>Greg McCarroll</b><br/><i>Club Director</i><br/>gmccarroll@my100bank.com</p>       |