



Rotary  
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Paul Oakley Stovall, Tony Award-winning Actor and Former “George Washington” in Hamilton



Join us Tuesday, Sept. 19, for a theatrical discussion with Tony Award-winning actor and Arkansas native **Paul Oakley Stovall**. Paul won the 2022 Tony for producing “A Strange Loop” on Broadway and starred as George Washington in “Hamilton” for four years during its first national tour. **Alyson Courtney**, a familiar face of morning TV news in Central Arkansas, will moderate what is sure to be an entertaining program.

Paul is currently working on an eight-episode series about Frederick Douglass entitled “Fathers and Sons.” His many film credits include “Buffalo,” “Columbus,” “Wolfe in Waiting,” “Charlotte,” “Shortbus” and the upcoming “Arlington.” His musical, “Clear: A New Musical Experience,” was featured at O’Neill National Music Theatre Conference and won a 2021 grant from the National Alliance of Musical Theatre. His newest play, “Written by Phillis,” premiered at Quintessence Theatre in Philadelphia in May. Outside of his acting career, Paul was a press advance associate for Senator then President Barack Obama and a media logistics coordinator and advance staff

lead for First Lady Michelle Obama. Also a songwriter, his album, "Ghetto and Oceans," with his band Into the Green is available on Apple Music.

Moderator **Alyson Courtney** joined the Little Rock news scene in 2003, first at KTHV-Channel 11, and most recently at KATV-Channel 7, where she co-anchored the show, "Daybreak." She is now director of development for North Little Rock's Argenta Community Theater. She has covered some of the most influential people and events in the state and has become a driving force behind advancing the arts in Central Arkansas. She is married to Wess Moore, sports director for KLRT-FOX16 and co-host of "The Zone" on 103.7 the Buzz. They have two daughters, Brooklyn and Berkeley.

### **Zoom Login for September 19, 2023**

Topic: RCLR Weekly Meeting

Time: Sep 19, 2023 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87260072946?pwd=SE5GaFpGWWhN2THE4UGN4YTR6NldsUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 6007 2946

Passcode: 898129

### **This Week at Club 99**

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



This week's panel discussion on "Marijuana in Arkansas: Big Business, New Laws" was a great overview of where Arkansas stands in terms of marijuana regulations compared to other states. Thanks to **Attorney Erika Gee** with Wright Lindsey Jennings for moderating a lively chat with **Mark Roberts** of Heights Apothecary, **Chip Leibovich** with the State of Arkansas DFA and **Mary Clarie McLaurin** with Good Day Farms.

Rotarians learned the difference between regulating marijuana and CBD/hemp and how much tax revenue has been generated from medical marijuana sales since the eight licensed cultivators have been in business. The panel also discussed their thoughts on where the industry will be in a few years, in anticipation of possible legalization of recreational marijuana in the state and beyond. Check out a recording of the meeting on the club's [YouTube](#) channel.

### Members Caught Having Fun This Week



**The 5th Test: Is It Fun?**

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

As I'm sure you all know ... we lost the great Jimmy Buffet last week. Parrotheads across the world are grieving - and really anyone who has enjoyed a beer on the beach listening to a Buffet song. Jimmy Buffet was the epitome of fun and joy. I can't think of any time that I didn't have a smile on my face listening to a Jimmy Buffet song.

Jimmy Buffet knew deep down The Power of Fun. He was quoted many times describing the importance of joy and fun in his life.

Here's one that I found that is so very relevant to our year learning about fun together:

"I think it's really a part of the human condition that you've got to have some fun. You've got to get away from whatever you do to make a living or other parts of life that stress you out. I try to make it at least 50/50 fun to work and so far it's worked out."

Catherine Price in "The Power of Fun" writes an entire section on how we should take work breaks by microdosing on fun. These brief moments of fun throughout our day reduce stress, which is key to keeping us creative too. When we have fun, we experience a surge of energy that enables us to put our ideas into action.

The boost in creativity likely has to do with fun's effects on our body chemistry. True Fun often involves new experiences, and as we've learned, all forms of novelty cause the release of dopamine, which is our brain's way of recording when an experience is worth remembering and motivating us to repeat it.

So it's no wonder that Jimmy Buffet worked so much fun into his day-to-day ... his brain was definitely telling him to repeat those beach moments.

As his good friend and mentee Kenny Chesney said ... Jimmy Buffet taught a lot of people about the poetry in just living.

Remember a few weeks back when we talked about play and the importance of play even as adults? Play expert Stuart Brown said when we stop playing, we start dying.

Jimmy Buffet was a firm believer in playing and having fun and in LIVING.

You might remember Jimmy Buffet for margaritas and cheeseburgers in paradise, but we should also remember what he has taught us about living each day to the fullest.

### Who's Having Fun This Week

Each week we will feature a member and what they do for fun! **Joyce Taylor** shares with us her love of horseback riding and traveling the country with her husband to ride in beautiful and diverse terrain. Check it out [here!](#)

### Special Events 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 learn the 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 Meetings:

Women of Rotary Coffee Chat via Zoom

Friday, Sept. 29, 8-8:45 a.m.

Zoom link will be emailed

The graphic features a blue background with a white rounded rectangle in the center. On the left side of the rectangle, the text 'Upcoming Events September 2023' is written vertically in orange and yellow. The main content of the rectangle lists two events: 'Sept 23 Miracle League Buddy Day' and 'Sept 29 Women of Rotary Coffee Chat'. The Rotary International logo is located in the bottom right corner of the white rectangle.

Date	Event Name	Location/Platform	Time
Sept 23	Miracle League Buddy Day	ML Field, Junior Deputy	12-2 PM
Sept 29	Women of Rotary Coffee Chat	Zoom	8 - 8:45 AM

### Upcoming Programs

#### September 2023

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

26 Author Eli Cranor and CALS Six Bridges Book Festival

October 2023

3 Latino Business Success in Central Arkansas

10 Federal Farm Bill Panel Discussion with Sen. John Boozman

17 Arkansas' Favorite Foods

## 2023-2024 Club Leadership



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