

Upper Arlington Rotary Club



ROTARYVIEW

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

UPPER ARLINGTON ROTARY CLUB

District 6690, Columbus Ohio, USA

Club 3694, Chartered 1972

ROSS BJORK

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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2026-2027

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ON THE WEB

www.uarotary.org

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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



Our speaker today was **Ross Bjork**, Athletics Director at Ohio State University. Ross has been with the university since 2024. Previously he served as Athletic Director at Western Kentucky, Ole Miss and Texas A&M. He has served as president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Ross and his family have roots in northwest Ohio which was a factor when he was considering the multiple approaches about the Ohio State job. (His Mom “encouraged” him to take the job.) The fact that he had a four month transition into the position along side Gene Smith was a tremendous help.

The culture at Ohio State revolves around the three pillars of People, Tradition and Excellence. Those pillars permeate everything the university does – including athletics. However, Ross notes that athletics is not the most important thing happening at Ohio State. Lives are being saved every day at the Wexner Medical Center. Research is occurring that will have a profound impact in the future and academic activity is occurring at the highest level. While not the most important thing, athletics is the most visible to the public.

In keeping with the focus on excellence, Ross reported that all athletic teams in OSU’s system have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above. As a group, student athletes maintain a 3.4 GPA across 975 athletes. Ninety seven percent of athletics graduates have a job or professional career opportunity,

Business metrics show robust growth in ticket sales, fundraising and merchandising. The business side

also calls for ongoing facility maintenance and constantly looking at the future for aging facilities and the need for new facilities. The golf course clubhouse is an example of an older structure due for a refresh/update. In terms of revenue, football is the source of the most revenue. Basketball revenue is currently positive but teetering on the edge of falling into the red. Golf is also a net positive currently.

Ross touched on some of the history of OSU athletics. He noted that from the very beginning, just like today, money and commercial considerations were part of the equation. He cited the early discussion at the university surrounding the development of sports programs. The conclusion was that sports should not be allowed to become too big, they must be self-supporting and school funds should not be used to support them.

Today’s college sports environment is chaotic. National standards would be the best way to achieve stability but, failing that, the Big Ten may consider establishing its own system.

Looking forward, Ross would like to see regional scheduling along with a process to work with athletes to develop an agreed-to governance and compensation system. Future compensation should be based on ability. Today, the way NIL has developed, the system does not necessarily pay based on ability.

In response to a question, Ross noted that today the NCAA does not have the power to govern. The absence of protection from anti-trust litigation and the possibility of court action on any rules make it impossible to govern.

CLICK HERE to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



GREETERS

September 29

Scott Emch
Jack Cotter

October 6

Susan (Sue) Coady
Robert Hunt

October 13

Bob LeBoeuf
Tim Irwin

REGISTRATION DESK

September 29

J.D. Dickerson
Mike Brady

October 6

Sandra Cotter
Jeanine Hummer

October 13

Ted Foster
Brendan King

CALENDAR

September 29 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
UA Schools Superintendent Bob Hunt & Treasurer/CFO Andy Geistfeld – “The UA Schools Levy and Details of the Facilities Plan”
Host: Glen Dugger

October 6 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Ohio High School Athletic Association
Host: Brad Frick

October 13 - Boat House/ZOOM
Heather Tuttle, Executive Director of the Ohio Wildlife Council – “Update on Ohio Wildlife Council”
Host: Herb Gillen

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 29TH
Scioto Country Club / ZOOM

Upper Arlington
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Club



THE MEETING



President **Glen Dugger** called the meeting to order and asked **Ralph Griffith** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian Bainbridge called on the following Rotarians to introduce their guests: **Bob LeBoeuf (Butch Moore)**, **Jim Manning (Peter Walsh)**, **Tom Westfall (Marc Lucas)** and **Don Ross (Dick Nourse)**.

Glen reported that the Board approved four recommendations from the Community Service Committee as follows: \$4,000 for Tri-Village Packers, \$5,000 for Star House, \$2,000 for Bed Brigade and up to \$12,000 for 500 winter coats at West Broad Elementary School.

We recognized **Barri Jones** for reaching Paul Harris Fellowship +7.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rick Barth promoted the club's upcoming social event – a Dog Party at the Krauss farm on Sunday October 4 from 2-5 PM. An email with details has been distributed. The event is a food and supply drive to support Franklin County Dog Shelter and Adoption Center. All are welcome. Contact **Rick** or **John Krauss** if you have any questions.

Alan Yarletts reported on the recent Rotary Youth Exchange training program at Jones Middle School. Students from Brazil, Germany, Taiwan, Belgium, Japan and Spain participated. Alan thanked club members who contributed their time to support the program.

John Huneck reported that an email hack resulted in bogus “invitations” being sent in his name. Ignore any such email you may receive.

SORTING OUT WHERE TO CONTRIBUTE

ORGANIZATION	DONATION DESIGNATIONS	ADDRESS	MEMBER CONTACT	EMAIL
Upper Arlington Rotary Club	Club dues	P.O. Box 12013 Columbus, OH 43212	Peggy Concilla	concillapl@gmail.com
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation	Annual \$365 and some other club funding requests	1704 Sundridge Dr. Columbus, OH 43221	Andy Livingston	andy.w.livingston@gmail.com
Rotary International Foundation	\$125 Club, Paul Harris and Polio Plus	2902 Halstead Rd. Columbus, OH 43221	Milt Lustnauer	milt@miltssellshomes.com