Upper Arlington Rotary Club

ROTARYVIEW

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

OCTOBER 20, 2026

UPPER ARLINGTON ROTARY CLUB
District 6690, Columbus Ohio, USA
Club 3694, Chartered 1972

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE FORUM

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ROTARYVIEW

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ON THE WEB

www.uarotary.org
www.district6690.org
www.rotary.org

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



CANDIDATE FORUM

UA Rotarian Brad Frick served as moderator for a forum featuring candidates for Ohio House District 7, currently represented by former Rotarian Allison Russo.

CAMERON KOFFEL

Running as an Independent, Cameron Koffel was raised in Upper Arlington and is currently a student at Capital University Law School. Cameron believes government needs to be reduced in size and that the current system is broken. He expressed concern that “Ohioans are being taxed to excess” and believes action is needed to address the issue.

UKEME JETER

Ukeme Jeter won the Democratic primary. She previously served on Upper Arlington City Council, including as its president, and is Assistant Dean of Global Perspectives at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Ukeme left Nigeria at age 18 and believes the American Dream still exists. She hopes to extend her leadership experience from the city level to the state level.

BILL MERCIER

Running as a Republican, Bill Mercier has a professional background in aviation maintenance, having worked for JetBlue, United and Republic Airlines. He is a graduate of Hilliard Davidson High School and Ohio State. He is also a past president of St. Agatha Parish and a black belt in martial arts. Bill is motivated by his two-year-old son and the desire to positively impact his future. He believes taxation and government spending need to be addressed.

CLICK HERE

to view this week’s meeting and all previously recorded meetings.

Upper Arlington Rotary Club

GREETERS

October 27
Mike Turnbull
Alan Thompson

November 3
Kelly Marlow
Chris Copeland

November 10
Brian Bainbridge
Steve Turnbull

REGISTRATION DESK

October 27
Jim Winfree
Dave Shelby

November 3
Jim Nicklaus
John Cleland

November 10
Don Leach
Brian Bainbridge

CALENDAR

October 27 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Michael Shearer, Executive Editor of the Columbus Dispatch, "Update on the Dispatch and the state of modern journalism"
Host: Herb Gillen

November 3 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Sarah Converse, Meteorologist, ABC6/FOX Columbus
Host: Don Ross

November 10 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Bruce Lancia, President, Folds of Honor Central Ohio
Host: Don Ross

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

OCTOBER 27TH
Scioto CC/Zoom

Upper Arlington Rotary Club

CANDIDATE FORUM (CONTINUED)



CAMERON KOFFEL



UKEME JETER



BILL MERCIER

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

OHIO SCHOOL CHOICE

Candidates were asked about Ohio's $1.4 billion student tuition program and a recent appellate court ruling finding it unconstitutional.

Mercier agreed with the court's decision and believes the tax program and charter schools need to be examined.

Koffel expressed concern about a reactive approach to government and believes thresholds should be established to determine eligibility.

Jeter agreed with the decision and emphasized the need to meet obligations to struggling school districts.

PROPERTY TAXES / COST OF LIVING

Koffel believes property tax limits tied to income should be established to protect seniors. Jeter similarly supports means testing. Mercier noted the complexity of the issue, particularly because funding percentages vary significantly across the state.

FLOCK CAMERAS

Jeter believes Upper Arlington has handled the use of Flock cameras with the trust of its residents, but feels a balanced statewide approach is needed.

Koffel noted that 99% of the analysis occurs outside Upper Arlington and believes statewide standards are necessary, including clearly defined limits on access.

Mercier expressed concern that the cameras are revenue-generating devices, similar to red-light cameras, and believes appropriate parameters must be established.

THE MEETING



The October 20 meeting of the Upper Arlington Rotary Club was held at Scioto Country Club, with President **Glen Dugger** ringing the bell to begin the meeting. **Sandra Cotter** led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: **John Trapp** welcomed prospective member **Connor Coburn. Tracy Kirby** was joined by **Donovan Mount,** a coworker at Alvis. **Angela Lanctot** introduced her friend **Allison Hargrove,** who expressed interest in learning more about the club.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS





Alan Yarletts reminded the club to support the Trunk or Treat event with Interact, where 500–700 Central Ohio children are expected. Area police departments will hand out candy. Donations of candy or money are needed.

Jessica Grisez introduced **Molly Seguin,** the club's first corporate member and Community Engagement Manager for the UA Foundation. Molly is excited to become involved.

Doug Godard reminded the club of the coat drive. Just $25 buys a coat, and members are encouraged to support the effort. Signups for coat distribution begin next week.