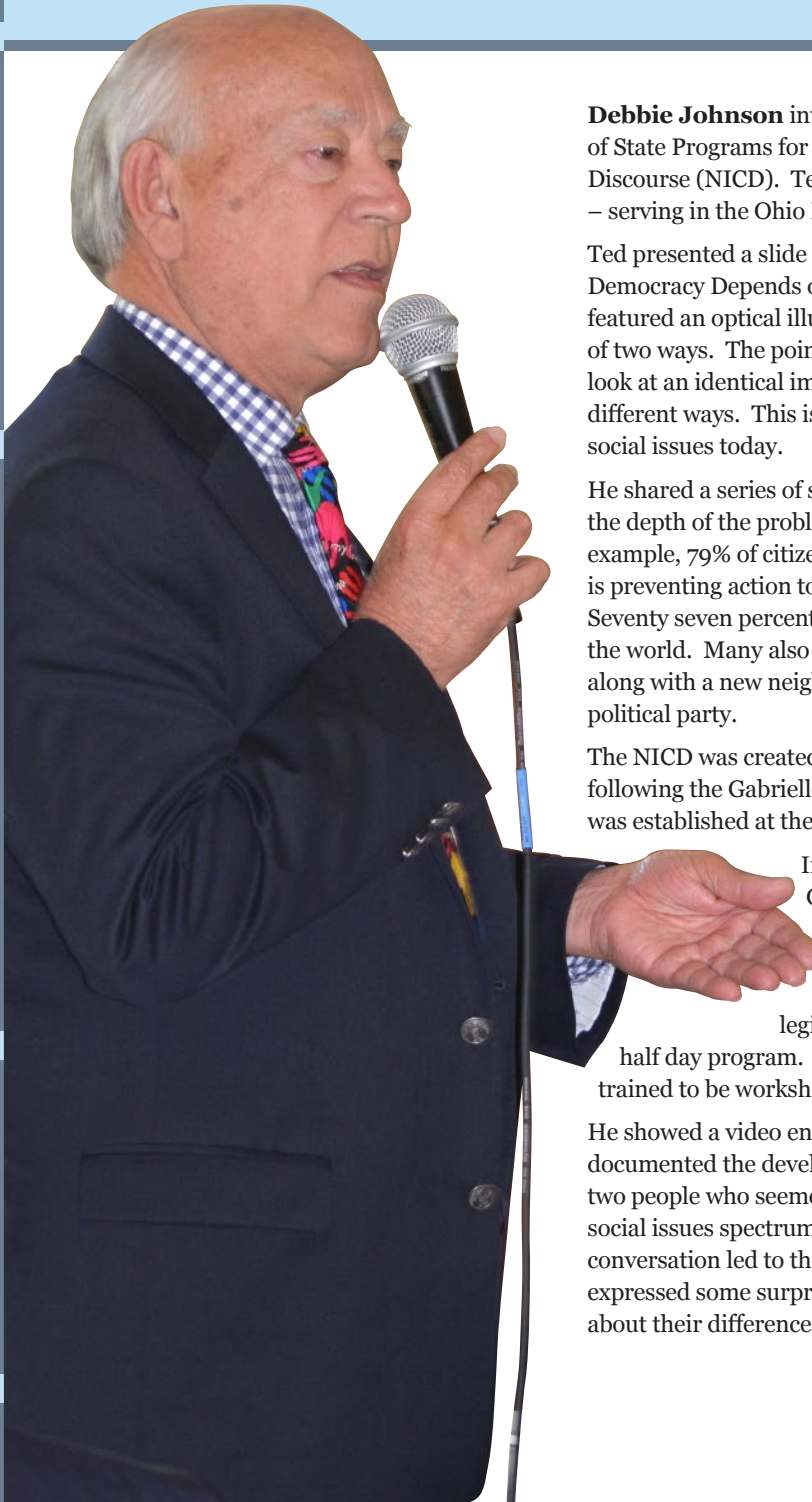




Ted Celeste

Director of State Programs for the
National Institute for Civil Discourse



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Debbie Johnson introduced **Ted Celeste**, Director of State Programs for the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD). Ted is a former State Representative – serving in the Ohio House from 2007-2012.

Ted presented a slide show entitled “Revive Civility: Our Democracy Depends on It!” It opened with a slide which featured an optical illusion that could be seen either one of two ways. The point, of course, is that two people can look at an identical image and see it in two completely different ways. This is the case with many civic and social issues today.

He shared a series of snapshot statistics to demonstrate the depth of the problem in the United States today. For example, 79% of citizens believe the current atmosphere is preventing action to address the nation’s problems. Seventy seven percent believe the U.S. is losing status in the world. Many also believe it would be harder to get along with a new neighbor who supported the opposite political party.

The NICD was created in Arizona in 2011 immediately following the Gabrielle Giffords shooting. The Institute was established at the University of Arizona.

In 2012 Celeste started the Next Generation Workshop series with an eye toward “building trust through civil discourse”. The program is aimed at state legislators around the country. It is a half day program. There are currently 40 legislators trained to be workshop leaders in various states.

He showed a video entitled “Unlikely Friendships” which documented the development of a friendship between two people who seemed to be at opposite ends of the social issues spectrum. A simple meeting for coffee and conversation led to the relationship. Each individual expressed some surprise at their respective ability to talk about their differences in a civil and productive manner.

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GREETERS

May 09

Louis Braun
Brad DeHays

May 16

Matt Rule
John Krauss

May 23

Matthew Meyers
Bob Ness

REGISTRATION DESK

May 9

John Hansel
John Cleland

May 16

Keith Schneider
Debbie Johnson

May 23

John Hansel
John Adams

CALENDAR

May 9

Jennifer Noll, Mid Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

May 16

Netta Whitman
Homeport
Host: Dave Dewey

May 23

TBA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday, May 6th

Annual Rotary Fundraiser
at Huntington Park

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A point made was that people may tend to look at others with different convictions as the enemy. In fact, they should look at them as the opposition. There is a difference.

Ted encouraged us to listen to understand - and to wait before responding to opposing points of view.

May is Revive Civility Month. Various cities around the country have engaged in the effort and have

resolved to work toward that end. Upper Arlington and Columbus have both passed supporting resolutions.

A tool is available to help small groups get involved and move toward civil discourse. Using a single cell phone, the group should text "Civility" to 89800. What follows is a discussion guide which will lead the group through the process.

The Meeting

We met today at Schmidt's Reception House at Raymond Memorial. **President Chip Knoop** asked **Debbie Johnson** to offer the Invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no visiting Rotarians or guests at today's meeting.

President Knoop noted that there were 221 people registered for last weekend's District Conference at COSI. Thirty UA Rotary Members attended.

The Upper Arlington Rotary received the World Service Award at the conference. Further, the World Service Committee, through the efforts of **Steve Sandbo**, has found two fire trucks to be donated to our project in Guatemala. At the moment we need someone with a pickup truck to move the array of gear and parts associated with the trucks from the city services center.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This information has been updated since Tuesday's meeting and has been corrected here) **Chip** reminded us all about the upcoming UA Rotary Fundraiser this Saturday, May 6 at Huntington Park. Parking passes were distributed at the meeting and the pre-sale of drink tickets occurred. He emphasized the importance of arriving on time – not fashionably late. The Fundraiser is from 4:30 to 7:00 PM – with the game beginning at 6:15. **Peggy Concilla** recommended a 4:30 arrival – but not later than 5:00. The schedule calls for dinner to be available at 5:30, a Rotary video will be shown at 6:17 with the live auction immediately following. There are 8 auction items – one of which is to throw out the first pitch of that night's game. ***The core message... arrive on time!***

The raffle drawing prizes at Saturday's Fundraiser will be for \$300 and \$200. Prize \$\$ will be in the form of a credit to your UA Rotary account.

President Knoop happily presented a Paul Harris Fellowship award to **Doug Sandbo** who has achieved "Plus 8" status. Congratulations – and thank you – Doug.



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Notes and Announcements

Chris Taylor announced a Leadership UA event entitled “A Call to Public Service: Everything You Wanted to Know About Serving Upper Arlington”. The event is May 10 from 7:00 until 8:30 PM at the UA Main Library. Flyers were on each table.

Linda Cummins reminded us about next week’s Rotary Roundtable. The May 9 program will feature **Paul Sutter**. Paul is the first chief scientist at COSI. In a fun and interesting way he will discuss and answer our questions - especially as they relate to space and astronomy. The Roundtable begins at 10:30 AM at Scioto CC.

Dave Dewey recognized the members who participated on the District Conference Planning Committee. He also noted that \$300 for the Polio Plus campaign was raised through the sale of conference buttons.

Bill Cloyd asked **Jeannette Bradley** to come to the podium. Jeannette is the founder of Second Chance Ministries – a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to helping the homeless and those who need a helping hand to put their life back on track. She operates the “Love Truck” which supports those people by providing facilities and material items for personal care. UA Rotary presented a check for \$850 to cover the cost of recently completed repairs and detailing for the truck. In addition, volunteers were requested on Saturday May 13 from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM for the organization’s “Cookout in the Camps” program which takes place at homeless camps and offers the opportunity to help and to engage with the people who live there.

Debbie Johnson encouraged participation in “The Big Table” community conversation program on May 17 at the Amelita Mirolo Barn. We also need six volunteers to be at the event to help cover the UA Rotary booth. It’s a two hour commitment.

June 22 is the next scheduled Night of Zacapa. Details to follow.

