



TRACY HAHN "BIGS IN BLUE" PROGRAM

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Tracy Harbold introduced our speaker **Tracy Hahn**, Upper Arlington Police Chief. Tracy Hahn has been with the UA Police Department since 2003 and became Chief in 2016. In addition to her service in law enforcement, Chief Hahn has been a Big Sister for many years – thus her interest in the “Bigs in Blue” program – the subject of today’s remarks.

The program matches police officers with at-risk youth through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

Hahn contacted the Big Brothers/Big Sisters team when she first heard about the Bigs In Blue program. Her timing was good in that the staff at Big Brothers/Big Sisters had just begun discussing whether to start the program in central Ohio. There are currently no active Bigs In Blue programs in Ohio. Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Chillicothe are targeted as potential locations at this time.

Most of these programs around the country are found in inner city areas. Chief Hahn noted that there are, however, kids at risk in UA.

Her past experience as a Big Sister found her matched with a girl from Delaware, Ohio. Her mother was a drug addict and was imprisoned. The match resulted in a strong connection with the child who was athletic and a good student. The girl ultimately went to college (Howard University – Summa Cum Laude) and is now a math teacher in Florida. Tracy still stays in touch with her.

Funding was necessary to establish the Bigs In Blue program in UA and Rotary has stepped up and approved funding for seven matches. Tracy herself and six other officers have agreed to participate in the program. This level of commitment is a point of pride for Tracy. Background checks on the volunteer officers are underway by Big Brothers/Big Sisters at the present time.

The volunteers are currently working with the Upper Arlington Schools to identify children who might be candidates for the program. Families of those children will be contacted to determine their interest. The first matches will hopefully be made in the month or so. Chief Hahn hopes to be able to report back in a year or so about the successful rollout of the program.

Matches will be carefully made to assure that male and female officers are matched with students in need of corresponding male or female role models.

The Bigs In Blue program also works with the child’s family to help create a closer bond. While the commitment of the officers is for a minimum two year period the relationship can continue until the age of eighteen under the auspices of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. Some such

GREETERS

March 27

Joe Valentino
Paul Berg

April 3

Bill Hosket
Jim Nicklaus

April 10

Telanda Sidari
Kevin Aschliman

REGISTRATION DESK

March 27

Dick Stone
Jeanine Hummer

April 3

Don Leach
J.D. Dickerson

April 10

Chris Taylor
Tracy Harbold

CALENDAR

March 27 (Scioto CC)

Gregg Brooks

Identity Thief

Hosts: Allison Russo & Molly Fontana

April 3 (Scioto CC)

UAHS Interact students

Capstone Projects and Rotary

Youth Exchange Program

Host: Alan Yarletts

April 10 (Scioto CC)

Susan Kaylor Lewis

Opioid Epidemic

Host: Mary Ann Krauss

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

March 27th
Scioto CC

Upper Arlington
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TRACY HAHN

"BIGS IN BLUE" PROGRAM

relationships can, of course, continue beyond that time.

Volunteers are required to spend a minimum of three hours per month with the child. That time can be broken into whatever segments work best – monthly, weekly, etc. More time can be spent if desired.

If someone knows of a child or family that might potentially benefit from this program the contact point is the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in central Ohio. The local organization covers Franklin, Union and Delaware counties.

This program offers the potential to bring the community more closely together with the police department – something which is especially important now given the recent difficult issue between police and the public across the country.

A wide ranging Q&A session followed Chief Hahn's remarks.

The Meeting

Herb Gillen, club Secretary, presided at today's meeting. He asked **Ralph Griffith** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Next week we will meet at Scioto Country Club and the program will feature **Gregg Brooks**, **Identity Thief**, hosted by **Allison Russo** and **Molly Fontana**.

In the absence of **Wayne Harer**, Herb conducted a mini harassment. Those of us who had not replied to the fundraiser invitation, contributed an auction item or acquired a sponsorship were fined a buck. Members without their Rotary pin also paid up.



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Notes and Announcements



Plans for the May 19 fundraiser, “Rotary In The ‘Shoe” are well underway. Please reply ASAP if you have not already done so.

Wednesday, April 4, is the date for the next meal service at the YWCA Family Center. Let **John Huneck** know if you can help out. The time commitment is from 5:30 to about 7:30 PM.

Chip Knoop distributed sign-up sheets for a UA Rotary “Bed Brigade” engagement opportunity at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church at Mill Run. This Saturday, March 24, we’ll be assembling beds for people in need. A couple hours of your time are all

that is needed. We’ll need ten Rotarians armed with cordless screwdrivers.

The club’s visioning survey has been distributed again in an email to all members. If you haven’t completed the survey please do so – it’s quick and easy and will provide important input to leaders who will gather on April 10.



We heard a “get to know me” session with **Dan Ralley**. Dan is Assistant City Manager for the City of Upper Arlington. He told us about his year as an exchange student in Germany where he spent time in a local school. His school experience ended with a polite but firm letter from the school principal thanking him for attending – but suggesting that he not come back. His career choice developed and has benefitted from good mentors and his feeling that a commitment to public service is a way to impact peoples’ lives in a positive fashion. The most influential person in his life has been his father – a faculty member in the Math Department at OSU. His best family experiences revolve around trips. One example is his family’s past participation in the annual TOSRV bicycle trip from Columbus to Portsmouth. The top of his bucket list includes trip up the western shore of Michigan and visiting the many communities along the lake.

REGISTRATION FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The 2018 Rotary District 6690 District Conference will be held May 18-19 in Zanesville. This is the same Saturday as our club fundraiser but there will be time for members to attend both. Registration for the District Conference is at <http://rotary6690.org/training-events/discon1718/>