



JEFF YOUNG

9/11 RECOVERY: WORKING AT GROUND ZERO



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watch the attacks on TV. He soon became aware that his FEMA task force would be activated. They deployed that same afternoon, out of the home base at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Due to the grounding of all airline flights, it was necessary to drive to New York City, and they arrived on Sept. 12. Even 24 hours after the 9/11 attacks, there was still black smoke billowing from fires at the site.

Jeff noted that there are 20 such FEMA teams nationwide. Four of these teams from the eastern part of the U.S. initially came to NYC to help with recovery, and were ultimately relieved by teams from the western U.S. These teams first came into national focus when the Oklahoma City bombing occurred in 1995.

Jeff and his team deployed from the enormous Javits Convention Center on the west side of Manhattan, pitching tents there for sleeping. There were day and night shifts, and lights were on all the time. Jeff compared it to a dorm-like environment.

Jeff was struck initially by the huge volume of dust and paper around the WTC site. There was almost no concrete of any size due to the abrasion that had taken place during the fall of the towers. Jeff also noted that it is not well known that a number of other large buildings on the WTC site had caught fire and collapsed. Also, numerous NYC fire department trucks had been crushed.

The “forward base” that Jeff and his team used was a branch of Chase Bank. He noted that it was “foreign” to New Yorkers to need to ask for help from outsiders, and Jeff and his team were careful not to be a burden and create any trouble for the locals.

Jeff and his team spent much of their time clearing away debris, and looking for remains. He compared the work of the numerous cranes on the site to a game of pick-up sticks. Fortunately, the only injuries suffered by Jeff’s team were a few lacerations; the doctor accompanying the team spent more time assisting a heroic and dehydrated rescue dog.

Jeff found that he was in something of a news blackout during his time at the WTC site, due to the fact that he had no cellphone service, and at that time, there were no portable devices connecting to the internet. It was only on the way back from NYC that Jeff and his colleagues fully grasped how the events of 9/11 affected the entire country.

Herb Gillen introduced the speaker, **Jeff Young**.

Jeff served in the UA Fire Division from 1988 to 2016, including service as fire chief. He left the UAFD to become head of Franklin County’s Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Department, which plans and coordinates responses to man-made and natural disasters such as terrorism and floods. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Jeff spoke about his experiences just after Sept. 11, 2001, leading the recovery efforts of Ohio Task Force 1, for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), at the World Trade Center site.. Jeff had previously been a founder of the Central Ohio Strike Team, an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team for the Ohio Department of Homeland Security. Much of his and his colleagues’ training had focused on earthquake relief, but this training became applicable after 9/11 to the work at the WTC site.

Jeff shared numerous photos of his and his team’s 11 days of recovery efforts. He noted that 9/11 is now so long ago that there was no such thing as a smart phone with a camera at the time, so he used a first generation digital camera to take his photos.

He recalled that on 9/11, he just had gotten off duty at the UAFD and was mowing his lawn in the morning when he was called into his home to

GREETERS

September 18

Connie Aschinger
Scott McKenzie

September 25

Dan Ralley
Chris Aschinger

October 2

Chris Taylor
Tracy Harbold

REGISTRATION DESK

September 18

Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

September 25

John Hansel
John Adams

October 2

Dan Ralley
Paul Berg

CALENDAR

September 18 | Scioto CC

Mark Ricketts
National Church Residences CEO
Hosted by: Matt Rule

September 25 | Scioto CC

Ohio House District 24
Candidate Forum featuring
*Democrat Allison Russo and
Republican Erik Yassenoff*
Hosted by: Brad Frick

October 2 | Raymond Memorial
TBA

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.

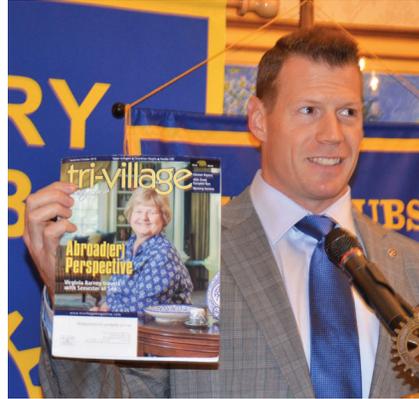
OUR NEXT MEETING

September 18th
Scioto CC

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



Notes and Announcements



Chip Knoop announced some dates to save: Sat. Sept. 29 from 9-11 am, for another “Bed Brigade” bed-building-and-delivery event., and Sat. Oct. 27 for the Special Olympics Swim Meet.

Yvonne Perotti provided a reminder of the opportunity to serve meals at the Ronald McDonald House on September 18. Two shifts of volunteers are needed: one at 3:45 PM and the other at 5:00 PM. All will be finished by 7:00 PM.

Brad DeHays noted **Ginny Barney’s** appearance on the cover of Tri-Village Magazine, for her recent “Semester at Sea”, and initially fined her \$1, and then raised the fine to \$5 at the urging of the crowd.

The following new members were introduced:



Herb Gillen introduced **Eric Stoll**. Eric is a consultant at Nationwide Insurance in Lean Deployment. He is a central Ohio native who lived in Houston and then moved back to this area.



Paul Germain introduced **Matt Kirby**. Matt is a 2002 graduate of UA High School, where he played basketball. He is also a graduate of Denison University. He is a managing director at Hamilton Capital Management. He and his wife are expecting their first child.



Ned Clark introduced **Rick Keeler**. Rick is a graduate of UA High School, DePauw University, University of Denver and the OSU Fisher College of Business. He is the founder of Black Dawg Digital Marketing, which he established in 2017 after a long career at Team Fishel. He lives in UA with his wife and 2 daughters.

Brad praised the new members for withstanding an entire meeting of the UA Rotary Board on Monday night.

Brad also announced 2 new community service grants that were just approved: \$2,050 for the Windemere-Livingston Elementary Schools project, and \$2,750 for a similar program involving Hastings Middle School and North Linden Elementary School.



The Meeting

Brad DeHays opened the meeting. **John Cleland** gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance. **Kevin Brown** introduced visiting Rotarian **Don Turner** from the Columbus Rotary Club. **Herb Gillen** introduced his guest **Capt. Alan Thompson** from the Upper Arlington Fire Division. **Matt Penrod** introduced his guest **Nick Casitas**.