



DR. PETE EDWARDS AND STEVE LYONS COLUMBUS CREW SC OWNERSHIP GROUP

OFFICERS

2019-2020

President

Herb Gillen

Vice President

Debbie Johnson

Secretary

Joe Valentino

Treasurer

John Adams

Past President

Brad DeHays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018-2020

Carl Aschinger

Milt Lustnauer

Melissa McCurdy

Jim McKinney

Matt Rule

2019-2021

Brad Frick

Wade Giffin

Barri Jones

Allison Russo

John Trapp

President Rotary International

Mark Maloney

District Governor, District 6690

Gary Vaughn

Assistant District Governor

Steve Heiser

ROTARYVIEW

Chairman

Jerry Woessner

Editor

Jerry Woessner

Writing & Design

Herb Gillen Advertising

Photography

Tanya Westerviller

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.



Chip Knoop introduced today's speakers – **Dr. Pete Edwards** and **Steve Lyons**.

Dr. Edwards is a member of the Columbus Crew ownership group and Steve Lyons is Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer with the Crew. Pete is an Orthopedic Surgeon with extensive experience treating elite athletes in a variety of sports. He was the team physician for the Columbus Crew until he became part of the local ownership group.

Columbus is the first city in the history of professional sports in the United States to have an owner say that their team is leaving and have the local community and government prevent the move and save the team for the community. Columbus and central Ohio resident should be proud of this accomplishment. The Save the Crew Movement combined with city and county governments and local community leaders were huge parts of the successful effort.

Pete and Steve led us through the sequence of events that began to unfold in September, 2017. Crew ownership called a meeting to discuss the state of the Crew franchise. The impression began to develop that the meeting was more of a formality in the minds of ownership and the league. There was a sense that the move was a foregone

conclusion in their minds.

In October, 2017 the planned move was announced publicly. Community-wide contacts were immediately made in an effort to marshal support to prevent the move. The Columbus Partnership became a key player at this point. Initially it seemed that there were few, if any options available to prevent the move. Eventually, the obscure "Art Modell law" surfaced as a vehicle for legal action to attempt to stop the move.

Mayor Ginther quickly came to the opinion that losing the Crew was not something that the city should allow to happen – that the team is something worth fighting for.

Meetings continued into 2018 – including a meeting with the league in Orlando. At this time it still seemed as if the league felt the move was still imminent. Through professional contacts the local leaders enlisted the help of influential member of the MLS family which ultimately impressed the Crew's owner and the league with how serious the effort to save the Crew was.



Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



GREETERS

October 1

Paul Berg
Dan Ralley

October 8

Brian Close
Barri Jones

October 15

Wade Giffin
Matt Rule

REGISTRATION DESK

October 1

Dick Stone
Janine Hummer

October 8

Jon Hellstedt
Keith Schneider

October 15

Jim Hamilton
Rich Simpson

CALENDAR

October 1 | *Raymond Memorial*
UA School Board
Candidates Forum
Host: Frick

October 8 | *Scioto CC*
Upper Arlington City Council
Candidates Forum
Host: Frick

October 15 | *Scioto CC*
Steve Cabot, Phil Dirt
& the Dozers
*Life experiences as a
traveling musician*
Host: Croskey

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 1st
Raymond Memorial

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



DR. PETE EDWARDS AND STEVE LYONS

COLUMBUS CREW SC OWNERSHIP GROUP



At this point the process of nailing down specifics began. The league insisted that the proposed primary owner(s) be identified. Once the initial probable owner (Dr. Edwards) was identified the process of putting together an entire ownership plan got underway. The whole package is now recognized as a \$500 million effort including the team purchase plus the new stadium and other expenses. Bottom line... the deal does not get done without Dr. Edwards' timely commitment.

The next step was pulling together the uniquely Columbus syndicate and exercise the power of the "Columbus way". Multiple partners were brought together – and are still working together – to raise the capital and other resources necessary to complete the deal.

The Columbus Partnership's **Alex Fisher** used his contacts with the Haslam family to engage them in a meeting about the Crew's fate and the efforts to save the team for Columbus. **The Haslams** (Jimmy and Dee) believe that assets like professional sports teams are community assets. This frame of mind synched up with the thinking in Columbus about the Crew. The Haslams expressed an interest almost immediately. It quickly became apparent that the relationship could work. While the Haslam family knew very little about soccer they did know that they believed in Columbus and that there was soccer expertise at the heart of the effort to save the team.

There was some outside financial interest in investing in the Columbus Crew which served to remind the league that it wasn't just Columbus locals who believed that it could be a viable enterprise.

Ultimately the league gave the local effort three months to come up with a deal. This type of deadline was extremely aggressive. Many such packages take up to three years to put together. Long days and nights followed with all hands on deck. Private interests and government entities burned the midnight oil to meet the deadline

Pete was in the operating room on the morning of October 12, 2018 when he received frantic calls about an announcement of some sort regarding the Crew. People were gathering at a local Crew supporter bar. The actual announcement was to the effect that there were discussions about keeping the Crew in Columbus. News reports and public excitement about an announcement led folks to prematurely conclude that the Crew had been saved. In the end, of course, the team was saved.

Pete and Steve both emphasized throughout their remarks that the participation and support of the county and city should not be overlooked. Their cooperation and joint efforts with the city's community and corporate leaders represent the true spirit of the public-private partnership that Columbus is known for. We were reminded that the repurposing of the current Mapfre Stadium site as a Crew training center and community park are part of the package which is being developed.

The grass roots Save the Crew organization was singled out for its important role in keeping the Crew in Columbus. The swell of support by team supporters, many of whom are business leaders and business experts in their own right, was impressive and a key factor in the success of this effort.



GREETERS

October 1

Paul Berg
Dan Ralley

October 8

Brian Close
Barri Jones

October 15

Wade Giffin
Matt Rule

REGISTRATION DESK

October 1

Dick Stone
Janine Hummer

October 8

Jon Hellstedt
Keith Schneider

October 15

Jim Hamilton
Rich Simpson

CALENDAR

October 1 | *Raymond Memorial*
UA School Board
Candidates Forum
Host: Frick

October 8 | *Scioto CC*
Upper Arlington City Council
Candidates Forum
Host: Frick

October 15 | *Scioto CC*
Steve Cabot, Phil Dirt
& the Dozers
*Life experiences as a
traveling musician*
Host: Croskey

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 1st
Raymond Memorial

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



The Meeting



President Herb Gillen opened the meeting and asked **Brett Harper** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don Leach introduced visiting Rotarian **Joe Henderson** from the Tri Village club. Joe was a guest of **Dan Ralley**. We had a good number of other guests today introduced by **Carl Aschinger** (son **Chip**), **Doug Sandbo** (wife **Judy**), **Tom Westfall** (**Mic Gordon**), **Jack Seibert** (wife **Janette**), **Paul Germain** (**Jonathan Beldon**), **Bob Long** (**Derek Dorsett**) and **Matt Kirby** (**Ben Lupton**).

Next week's meeting (10/1) will be at Schmidt's Reception House (Raymond Memorial). The program will feature a UA Board of Education candidates' forum.

We recognized four members for their entry into the 125 Club. **Bob Long**, **Chris Taylor**, **Paul Germain** and **Jim McGovern** were thanked for their support.

We heard a Get-To-Know-Me session featuring **Michele Hoyle**. With respect to her career Michelle noted that she always knew she would be in the public sector – where both of her parents spent their careers. Michelle went to grad school at Ohio State where she studied public administration. Her father is the most influential person in her life. He had the strongest moral center she has ever known anyone to have. She especially enjoys family gatherings – particularly those involving the entire extended family. She has great childhood memories of such gatherings at Myrtle Beach. Skydiving is on the top of her bucket list. She can't explain why.



Notes and Announcements

Barri Jones is looking for help with Meals On Wheels delivery on Saturday, October 12. Contact Barri if you can help.

Barri is also looking for helpers to build hygiene kits for ALMC (Assistance League of Metro Columbus). The date is October 24.

Ted Foster is coordinating West Broad Street Elementary programming on October 25 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Contact Ted for details.

Jim Nicklaus announced a Rotary Roundtable for Tuesday, October 8 where we'll hear from **Dr. Grant Jones**, Orthopedic surgeon and Sports Medicine specialist.



OCTOBER IS ROTARY FREE GUESTS MONTH!

For the month of October only, we are allowing every club member to host up to two guests during the month for FREE. We are asking you to consider inviting friends and associates who you feel might make good potential members. We have some great programs scheduled and it is our hope that you will bring friends who may have an interest in joining Rotary. Paul Germain will be promoting membership to those guests who are interested.