



## TOM SCHMID PRESIDENT & CEO - COLUMBUS ZOO

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2023-2024

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### ON THE WEB

[www.uarotary.org](http://www.uarotary.org)

[www.district6690.org](http://www.district6690.org)

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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



Jessica Grisez introduced **Tom Schmid**, President, and CEO of the Columbus Zoo. His responsibilities included the Columbus Zoo, The Wilds, Zoombezi Bay and Safari Golf Club. Tom was born in Miami and grew up in Southwest Florida. He received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Stetson University and his Masters in Biological Sciences from the University of Central Florida. Prior to accepting the position in Columbus, Tom spent 20 years at the Texas State Aquarium. Prior to that, he began his career with Sea World Orlando.

The Columbus Zoo occupies 600 acres in Delaware County and has an operating budget of over \$100 million. 200 acres is comprised of the golf course and still 100 acres remain for future expansion. Staff includes 350 full time and 1500 part time/seasonal employees that host 2 million visitors annually. The economic impact of the zoo was recently estimated at over \$450 million. Special needs and assistance programs have been a priority. They have partnered with the Columbus Metropolitan Library to offer admission for anyone with a library card -12,000 last year.

Conservation locally, regionally, and globally is a priority for the zoo. Threatened species and rescues top these efforts. Manatees have been rescued and returned to their native environment. The zoo has assisted with an Alaskan born moose. Asian elephants have received care, as well. The zoo has facilitated a Center for Species Survival for Asian Elephants in India -a first of its kind.

Schmid praised his staff and especially their veterinarians. Additionally, their facilities are getting updates and expanding attract visitors. During cold days, the zoo may only have a few hundred visitors. Indoor observation facility enhancements look to improve this. Part of their 15-year 2040 Strategic Plan is to make the zoo a destination facility with improved transportation and possibly may include a hotel in coming years. The Wilds has a new observation deck and an RV campground will offer additional options for visitors.

#### Q&A:

- The legacy of Jack Hanna is being included in zoo plans.
- Zoofari is still a fundraiser, but has been “toned down.”
- Feed budget exceeds \$750,000
- Hotel is being considered along with other lodging options.
- Delaware County Government has been a great partner -especially Sheriff.
- 400,000-gallon manatee habitat is one of the largest in the US resulting in its success.
- The zoo has an Institutional Collection Plan to determine priority/which animals are desired
- Zoo camp is quite popular. Fills in December typically. Would like to expand.
- Special needs adults are part of the hiring plan.
- Pandas are a challenge due to political dealings with China.
- Elephants are quite dangerous. No longer permitting zoo employees to be in same space.

**CLICK HERE** to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



## GREETERS

### February 13

Mike Brady  
Ali Carine

### February 20

Jim Henson  
Mike O'Sullivan

### February 27

Sandra Cotter  
Scott Emch

## REGISTRATION DESK

### February 13

J.D. Dickerson  
Jim Nicklaus

### February 20

Dick Stone  
Janine Hummer

### February 20

Kevin Brown  
Brian Hall

## CALENDAR

### February 13 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Ryan Miller,  
2nd & 7 Foundation  
Host: Jessica Grisez

### February 20 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Michael Stinziano,  
Franklin County Auditor  
Host: Jeanine Hummer

### February 27 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Logan Hittle, Assistant Athletic  
Director for Name, Image  
& Likeness – The Ohio State  
University  
Host: Herb Gillen

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity  
to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion  
in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event  
reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for  
inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

### FEBRUARY 13TH

Scioto Country Club/Zoom

## THE MEETING



The February 6, 2024 Upper Arlington Rotary Meeting at Scioto Country Club with online access to members available via Zoom. President **Andy Livingston** rang the bell to officially start the meeting with Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by **Herb Gillen**.

**Chip Knoop** was joined by **Jim Manning** who has expressed interest in joining the club.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Please note our March 5 and March 12 Meetings will be held at The Boat House at Confluence Park, 679 W Spring Street.

Membership drive is continuing. If you know a prospective member, please work to complete the invitation/application process.

**President Livingston** presented **Dave Hammond** with a Paul Harris Fellow +7.

Annual \$365 Foundation Payments continue to arrive. 50-60 members have utilized the direct payment QR code. Checks payable to the UA Rotary Foundation are welcomed as well.

Save the Date for Club Fundraiser -May 14, 2024 at the Amelita Mirolo Barn.



## ROTARY ROUNDTABLE FEBRUARY 20TH FEATURES OSU MEN'S LACROSSE HEAD COACH NICK MYERS

Please join us Tuesday, February 20th from 11 AM - Noon at Scioto Country Club for Rotary Roundtable featuring Ohio State Men's Lacrosse Head Coach Nick Myers. Coach Myers will be covering the great successes of the program as well as highlighting the new lacrosse facility.

## SORTING OUT WHERE TO CONTRIBUTE

Where do your contributions go? There are three main organizations where we as Upper Arlington Rotarians direct our Rotary giving. Sometimes it can be confusing, so here is something to hopefully help keep things straight.

ORGANIZATION	DONATION DESIGNATIONS	ADDRESS	MEMBER CONTACT	EMAIL
Upper Arlington Rotary Club	Club dues	P.O. Box 12013 Columbus, OH 43212	Peggy Concilla	concillapl@gmail.com
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation	Annual \$365 and some other club funding requests	1704 Sundridge Dr. Columbus, OH 43221	Andy Livingston	andy.w.livingston@gmail.com
Rotary International Foundation	\$125 Club, Paul Harris and Polio Plus	244 Daniel Burnham Sq. Columbus, OH 43215	Debbie Johnson	debbiejohnson33@gmail.com

