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Wayne Harer introduced **Ken Schnacke**, President and General Manager of the Columbus Clippers, AAA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. Ken is in his 44th season with the Clippers. In 2018 he was named to the International Baseball League Hall of Fame. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of minor league baseball. During his tenure with the Clippers the team has made the playoffs 22 times, has won eleven Governors Cups (championship of the International League) and two Triple A national championships.

“This is a weird year everybody” was part of Ken’s opening remarks. He is not sure if the Clippers are going to play at all this year. There is a slight chance at best. It depends on the results of ongoing discussions between Major League Baseball and the Major League players union. At best, a July opening for the major leagues is possible. If that happens the AAA affiliates like the Clippers might be able to play. He does not like the optics of the wealthy owners and players arguing over money when so many people – including fans – are struggling.

For a while the thought was that baseball – America’s game – could return on the Fourth of July. That return date is now in jeopardy. The return of the other major league sports like basketball or soccer before baseball would be very bad for the game. The game is in uncharted territory.

In the event baseball does resume at the Triple A level there would be a need for COVID-19 test kits for team members and others associated with the team. The club would need 60 to 80 kits to test players three to four times a week. Such testing would cost about \$30,000 per week. This testing would be difficult to justify in the event we still had issues getting testing equipment for doctors and nurses.

Ken is thinking about the worst-case scenario – no baseball this season – and considering alternative events which could be held in the stadium. He has been in regular contact with Governor Mike DeWine and anticipates an announcement soon with details about re-opening venues like ballparks. There would be restrictions on crowd size, etc. He mentioned movies on the greatly enlarged video board as an example of what could be done.



GREETERS

June 16

Steve Stivers
Tina Husted

June 23

Amberly Windisch
Ua Chamberlain

June 30

Beau Taggart
Joe Ayers

REGISTRATION DESK

CALENDAR

June 16 - Schmidt's at Raymond Memorial/ZOOM

Dr. Stephen Markovich,
President and CEO – OhioHealth
Host: Angela Lanctot

June 23 - Schmidt's at Raymond Memorial/ZOOM

Chris Reese, President of the
Ohio Association of Realtors
*The Current State of Ohio
Real Estate*

June 30 - Schmidt's at Raymond Memorial/ZOOM

Speaker TBD

*Advance reservations required for
in-person meeting attendance*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity
to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion
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SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

JUNE 16TH

Schmidt's at Raymond Memorial/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



KEN SCHNACKE

PRESIDENT/GM - COLUMBUS CLIPPERS

At Huntington Park, one and a half million dollars of improvements have been made in the offseason. The scoreboard has been enlarged – making it the second largest video board in the country. New LED lighting has been put in to save substantial money. The new lights feature different colors and instantaneous on-off capability which can add to celebrations and other special effects. The final improvement has been the installation of netting all the way to each of the foul poles. Initial fan reaction may be negative in some cases but safety is paramount.

Some points from the Q&A session following Ken's remarks

County ownership is a nice feature. Ken emphasized that the team has never used a tax dollar. The Clippers organization is responsible for its entire budget. The county's presence allows the team to borrow on the county's excellent bond rating if necessary.

He commented on the planned loss of 42 out of 160 teams in the minor leagues. The erosion of this base for young players is alarming. The major League baseball draft is this week with only five rounds taking place. As a result, a number of potentially elite players might never be drafted. In this scenario, Pete Rose and Mike Piazza and Don Mattingly would not have been drafted. Analytics have impacted decision-making at the ownership level. He pointed out that some lower level minor league franchise owners have not done as good a job as necessary to maintain their facilities and take care of their players. They may now be paying the price for those shortcomings. Ken stated that the contraction will not affect the Clippers.

The combination of the pandemic and its economic devastation bring in to question whether fans will be willing or able to return to sports venues when the various leagues start up again.

The Cleveland Indians are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Clippers. Ken said the relationship is very good between the Clippers and the Indians. There is a player development contract between the Indians and the Clippers.

Clippers players are not getting money from Major League Baseball. They are currently receiving \$400 per week plus the state's unemployment compensation.

Social distancing in a ballpark is a question. He hopes the Governor will announce a ballpark opening strategy soon – perhaps something on the order of 10% of capacity.

He discussed the process of players' movement between the minors and majors. Happiness reigns when a player is sent from Columbus to Cleveland and an adjustment is required when someone is sent down from Cleveland to Columbus.



PAST UA ROTARY ZOOM MEETINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Recorded UA Rotary Zoom meetings are available for club members to view online.

www.uarotary.org/zoom-meeting-recordings/

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THE MEETING



President **Herb Gillen** opened the meeting which was held at Schmidt's Reception House at Raymond Memorial. He asked **Joe Valentino** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Today's meeting continued the club's current option of either in-person or virtual attendance.

Herb introduced three visiting Rotarians. **Wolf Lant**, District 6690 Assistant Governor from Area 7; **Scott Cubberly**, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Delaware; **Jim Lynch**, Tri-Village Rotary

Herb announced that the Board had its final meeting of the Rotary year on June 8. They approved looking into converting UA Rotary endowed funds into non-restricted funds. The Board did not approve the move now but will consider the idea in the future. There is currently about \$79,000 in the UA Rotary Foundation endowment fund. Board minutes are available in the member section at uarotary.org.

President Gillen asked **Wolf Lant** to come to the podium to make a presentation to **Debbie Johnson**. Wolf opened by announcing that the Rotary International theme for 2020-2021 is "Rotary Opens Opportunities". He then presented Debbie with the club's banner displaying the new theme and her president's pin. He also announced that the club has 91 members contributing to the District's "125 Club". He read the names of the 91 participants.

Dave Dewey announced Paul Harris Fellowships. The club has 64 Paul Harris Fellows this Rotary year. Attending in person today with Plus One PHF membership were **Jeanine Hummer**, **Debbie Johnson** and **Tim Kellogg**; Plus Two members present were **Mike Brady**, **Peggy Concilla**, **Brian Hall**, **Wayne Harer** and **Whitney Logan**; Plus Three member present was **Milt Lustnauer**; Plus Four member was **Dave Dewey**; Plus Five member **Price Finley** and Plus Six member **Anne Croskey** were also recognized. Additional PHF awards will be presented at next week's meeting. Anyone not present in-person at next week's meeting will be mailed their award.

Price Finley discussed the Paul Harris Society. He thanked **Dave Dewey** for his help with the Foundation this year. When someone accumulates \$10,000 or more they are considered Major Donors and are not routinely recognized each year after that. Price recognized new Paul Harris Society members **Dave Dewey** and **Andy Livingston** and presented them with their Paul Harris Society certificates.

Herb introduced new member **Steve Zid**. Steve's sponsor was **Don Trotier** and his mentor will be **Wade Giffin**.



NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Happy Birthday to **Dick Stone** who celebrated on June 8 and **Alan Yarletts** whose big day is June 11. **Tim Kellogg's** big day is June 12.

Dr. Stephen Markovich, President and CEO of OhioHealth will join us next week.

Joe Valentino reminded us of the August 14 Fundraiser at the U.S. Veterans Memorial and Museum. Live and silent auction will occur both in person and virtually. Items are still needed for both auctions. **Debbie Johnson** is the contact for live auction items. Joe hopes that every member will contribute an item for one or both of the auctions. Veterans are asked to send Joe pictures of themselves in uniform and information about their branch and years of service so that we can prepare a presentation to be shown during the fundraiser.

Anne Croskey asked for help since **Don Trotier** will not be attending meetings on a regular basis in the future. Anne is looking for someone to help set up registration. Early arrival is necessary – usually around 11:15/11:30 each week. Let Anne know if you can help.

